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HEAVY METAL

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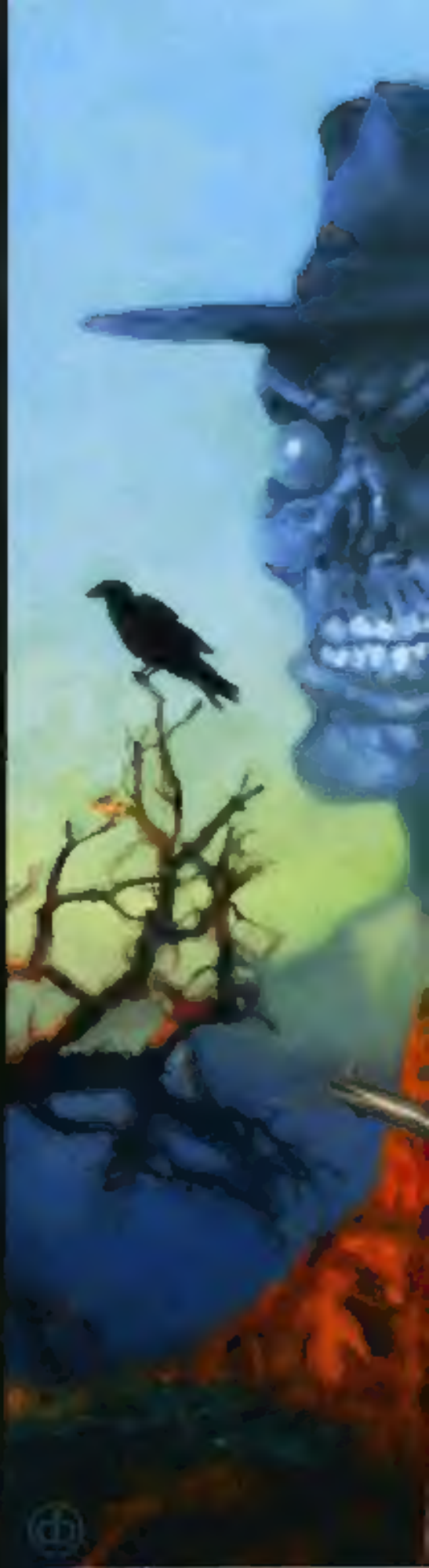

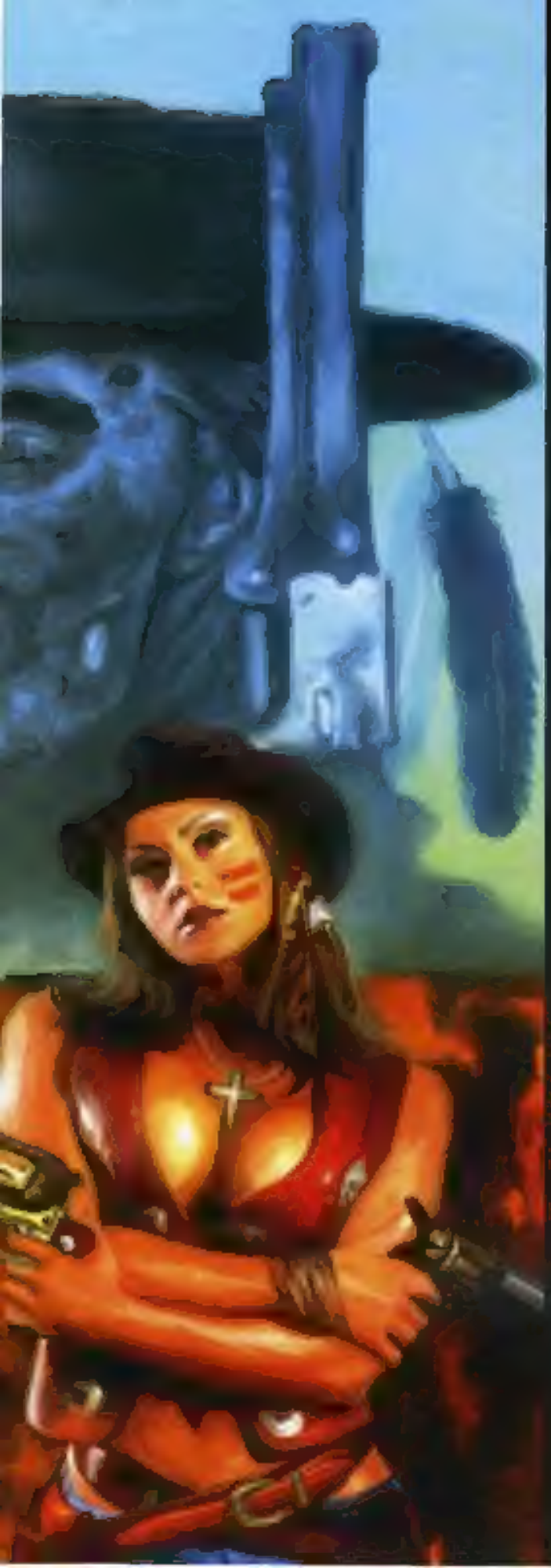

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HEAVY METAL

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Hey, Gang,

Welcome to May! Man, I do hope you're having a killer spring—I know it's been a bit of a winter back east (as I write to you in my t-shirt here in sunny California!) but do hope you faired well. I have, however, been spending a lot of time in East Hampton, Massachusetts, home of the Heavy Metal warehouse, getting things in better shape to serve you better—and loved the fact I get to visit the snow I love for a week at a time and leave it! I'm pretty sure I'm hated by all of you in middle America, and the East coast for that, sorry kids—but my thoughts are with you!

I have to tell you one of the best times I had this early winter (January) was at the "Big Apple Convention" January 22nd and January 23rd—I landed on Friday, started work on Saturday, and had two feet of snow by "late Saturday!" Loved to hang with the few fans that made it in, and was thrilled to spend the extra time with all of them. Thanks to Mike and his crew for putting on a great show despite the nasty situation.

This month's issue is extra cool for me, as I've been trying to work out doing a cover and a gallery of Max Bertolini in the same issue. And here you have it—an amazing cover and gallery by one of my newest favorite artists! Welcome Max—I know this is your first time, and I'm thrilled to have you!

Stefano Cardoselli—I HATE this guy! I've only published everything he's sent me, I think he can draw his ass off, and look forward to his next contribution. Not that I will ever take away from all the other artists I select—special mention goes out to Eric Kraus and his effort—mainly because it is extra killer, but Simon and I got really drunk with him and trashed Simon's hotel room together—more details to come later.

Boys—you have to ask? We love him, his new book "Tarot" and the new "Comics" series he'll be doing with us over the next year. This works in well with our personal friend Art Suydam, who returns to us, big style, in an adventure that will continue for a long time to come.

After all this "blathering" about these few guys I mentioned above, what else would I have to say? Well, I wouldn't have chosen Autherman, Lebethin, Bamforth, Ciampi, and Bezian if I didn't love their work enough—this wouldn't be the issue I planned it to be without them.

Yes, I'm saving the featured graphic novel for last. Mosdi and Froissard who do all the chores on the main adventure, and I will never forget Karl and Steve for some of our main attractions.

And then there's me, as I'd like to talk about me for the next ten paragraphs, Howie is telling me to "Fuck Off" so I'll leave you with my compliments to Mr. Savage who is our back cover artist and Mr. Harris who is our featured artist!

God-ish bless you, visit our store often, and I'll be talking to you real soon.

Beat,

Kit Eastman

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear H.M.,

I wanted to spread the word about my project for an animated short story featuring the mysteries and demons of the last days of Vincent Van Gogh. Mood provoking, with intense graphics and great music, the project is in the early development stage but you can already have a good feel of what the story is about. You're also invited to leave a line or two with critiques, suggestions or complaints in the cafe forum. The web-site is: www.peterwiletar.com

Thank you,
Peter Wiesenmann

Dear Peter,

I just wanted to let you know I checked out the film, and it's killer! I hope everyone gets to check it out at www.peterwiletar.com Keep up the great work, and keep us posted on all your new projects.

Dear H.M.,

Today, flipping through the last issue of "Comic Book Artist" in the comics shop I saw an ad for upcoming books about several comics, including HEAVY METALLURGY, the long-awaited official HEAVY METAL Companion. What is this?

The ad shows the cover of the book, a new illustration by Simon Bisley of a big-titty girl in the typical HM cover fashion. The title, HEAVY METALLURGY, features the classic HEAVY METAL logo adding the letters LURGY to the right of METAL. The publishing date is "late 2005" and the publisher hasn't been decided yet. I did a search on the Internet but I didn't find anything.

—Screametal

Dear Screametal,

Thanks for your note and I agree this will be an excellent project when it's finished. The writer/designer, Jan Cooke has been swamped with a million other projects, but we've been able to come to an agreement and a time-frame to see it through to completion—hopefully this year... I'll keep you posted here, and in the Heavymetal.com forums.

Dear H.M.,

Richard Corben has announced on his official web-page that: "I have several possible projects I want to do including a revival of DEN'S adventures." The original DEN adventures were serialized in the classic first Heavy Metal era: "DEN I" in the first 13 issues of the magazine and "DEN II" in issues 54 to 72. So I have three words to say: PAGING KEVIN EASTMAN! Any chance that the new DEN stories could appear in Heavy Metal? I can't imagine a better place for this long-awaited return.

—Fan

Dear Fan,

We've been in touch with my hero—Richard Corben about collecting his two self published art books, and repackaging them with a lot of his newest work, and hope to close the deal soon. In the meantime, I would be more than THRILLED to do anything new Richard does, and "DEN" would be on the top of the list to get behind. I'll give him a call...

Dear H.M.,

Last night me and a few friends were sitting around bullshitting about "Requiem" and "Gypsy" and the rest of the great stories always featured in Heavy Metal... when we had a few ideas.

We were playing Soul Calibur 2, one of those 1 vs 1 fighter games, like Mortal Kombat, and street fighter type games... when we thought how fucking cool would it be if Heavy Metal put out a killer game like that... Say different characters from each of the featured stories that Heavy Metal publishes. I can name hundreds of Heavy Metal characters that would be totally kick ass in such a game, and most of them would probably be better than half the character in the real games...

We were also thinking about "Requiem" the movie... Judging by the whole story line and how epic of a tale it is, I could see it totally blowing a lot of the sci-fi movies out of the water... I know I personally would fucking love it... same as if any of the Gypsy stories are made into a movie.

I guess what I'm asking is... Are there any plans of opening up the Heavy Metal name to start including games and movies.

—Jammish

Dear Jammish,

There WILL be another Heavy Metal based game in the near future—we've been working with a few different companies to find the right content and cutting edge format to really put the brand up there with the best of them. We're getting very close—and I'll be the first to let you know when we finally hit solid gold. I, personally can't wait.

Check out our web-site at: www.heavymetal.com

GALACTIC GEOGRAPHIC

RETURN TO GREEN

A TOURIST'S VIEW OF A HOSTILE PLANET

The hothouse planet called Green is a world seldom visited, except by teams armed with special defenses against the most hostile and overcrowded biosphere in the known worlds. With one side of this water world always facing the sun, every place you try to land is a battleground for creatures competing endlessly for space and survival. To xeno-biologists Green is a magnet. Here, evolution has hit high gear. Species come and go at an astonishing rate and life-spans are short. Biologists remind us that life can survive in environments as hostile as Green, where massive impenetrable roots support a continental forest that rises to a height of over 25 kilometers. High in this forest, bathed by a burning sun and nourished by a thin atmosphere, is a realm of relative piece and quiet, a place called the "Tips of Green." *(Continued on next page)*

Now in book stores: THE GALACTIC GEOGRAPHIC ANNUAL 3003 - EARTH EDITION
GALACTIC GEOGRAPHIC © 2004 Created by Karl Kofoed GALACTIC GEOGRAPHIC.COM

On one of those rare scientific incursions, Galactic Geographic Society artist and writer Karl Kofoed joined a mission to the Tips of Green, the life zone where the painting on these pages was created. "Our team wore polyceramic suits with reinforced head gear and a heavy bio-pac. The gravity was greater than Earth's, so it was hard for us to do our work," writes the artist. "But somehow I managed to at least start a datastrator painting. Luckily we'd taken enough pictures so I was able to finish it on the way home."

Asked what his picture shows, Kofoed writes, "It's the place where we disembarked the shuttle. Vines were everywhere – so many that I couldn't tell how they connected to the underlying structure. We didn't expect to see many creatures. But even in the thin air and harsh sunlight there were lots! And many of them wasted no time in attacking us or spraying us with poisons or glue to keep us still while they tried to eat us. It was an amazing experience, it's true, but I'll never go back. Even though it's the right color, I think the planet should be called Deathworld, not Green."

GALLERY

MAX BERTOLINI

Max Bertolini was born on June 5, 1967 in Milan, the city in which he still lives and works. He didn't attend art school, therefore he can be considered a true natural talent. As a child, he was fascinated by American superhero comics, and the fantasy and science-fiction art he saw in magazines and on book covers.

The arrival on the newsstands of the first issue of Nathan Never published by Sergio Bonelli Editore in 1991 was a revelation for Max, because it combined his old love of science fiction and the Italian adventure comic book genre. He prepared [illegible] and presented them to the publisher. After a few illustrations, Max's progress was so rapid that he was entrusted with the official tests for the character, and then he was hired for the staff of the Alfa Agent.

After a few years Max began to feel that comics weren't enough for his art and started creating cover images. Again, he was successful. His images, where you can often find the beauty of the naked human form, cover everything from fantasy to science-fiction, passing through horror and thriller.

He is one of the cover artists of Euro Editoriale and Mondadori, the main Italian publishing companies. His fantasy and sci-fi covers have also been published in France, Germany, Spain, England, Russia and China. In 2004, Diesel, the famous Italian fashion company asked him to create the illustrations for its winter worldwide advertising campaign.

In March 2005, Paper Tiger, the well known English publisher of fantasy and sci-fi art books will release "Revelations, The Art of Max Bertolini," a 128 hardcover art book.

Jordi Bernet—Master of Noir

If you like good comic art and you're still not aware of Spanish artist Jordi Bernet, then you need to climb out from under that rock you live under and get hip. This man is one of the current geniuses of graphic fiction. With an affinity for hot jazz, beautiful dames, tough gat toting protagonists you really can't call most of his main characters heroes since Bernet has a decided fondness for stories about gangsters, goons, and other assorted thugs and the peerless ambience of 1930s America. Bernet comes on strong like a sappa bowling pava thrown in your face. His style can best be described as a combination of Alex Toth, Noel Sickles, Milton Caniff, and Joe Kubert, with Bernet adding his own superbly cinematic storytelling to the mix.

The son of Spanish artist/writer Miguel Bernet (A/K/A Jorge) Bernet took to comics like Tiger Woods hitting the links, doing his first work in comics at the tender age of 15 for a humorous strip entitled "Dona Urraca" in 1960. But within two years, Bernet had developed his own more realistic style and was contributing to international magazines in Italy, the UK and the USA. During the 60s and 70s, Bernet, working under the pseudonym Jordi, did several different strips for *Spirou* magazine including "Dan Lacombe," and "Paul Foran." For the German market Bernet produced "Wai 69" and a beautifully drawn barbarian strip entitled "Andra."

During the 80s working with writer Antonio Segura, Bernet illustrated "Nevada" for *Metro* magazine, and "Kraken" for *Metropol*. However, American audiences probably know him best as the artist who succeeded Alex Toth on the war strip "Torpedo" in 1982. With its ruthless hit man hero getting revenge against all odds in a superbly realized Depression era urban setting, Bernet tackled "Torpedo" like he had actually lived the gangster life in the 30s.

Although he hasn't done that much for American publishers yet Bernet continues to dazzle his existing fans and make armies of new ones with his dazzling heavy brushwork and dynamic, seemingly effortless layouts. If you haven't yet seen Bernet's work or any of Bernet's other works, then fortunately you can get up to speed on his oeuvre in Asiad Publishing's super hardcover limited omnibus *Bernet*. If your local comics shop is backordered or just doesn't carry it you can get a copy direct from the publisher at www.asiadpublishing.com. As always, with *Mondo Metal* sent you.

Big thanks to Mariano Asiain for his assistance translating this interview and for providing the illustrations accompanying it.

Jordi Bernet Transcript

MM: From childhood onward, did you always want to be a professional artist?

BERNET: Very much so. I was surrounded with artists within the family. You could say I was predestined to be an artist.

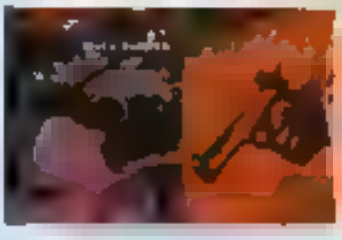
MM: How much of a professional advantage did you gain from having a father who was an established cartoonist? Did he train you at all?

BERNET: As a child, I always played under my Father's drawing table while he was busy working. When I got older, I looked over his shoulder for hours watching him draw. It was fascinating. He hardly penciled the figures, he went straight to inking. He did tell me always pay attention to artists I asked him who he thought were the best and he would name Harold Foster, Alex Raymond, and Milton Caniff.

MM: What kind of art training did you have?

BERNET: Given the situation we were in at the time, I did not have the means to go to art school as much as I would have liked to. I'm self-taught. Completely. Later on I realized that most of my colleagues experienced the same thing as I did.

MM: Your work shows strong influences from both Joe Kubert and Alex Toth. Would you care to comment on the way the work of both men has influenced your approach to cartooning?



BERNET: From the beginning I knew I wanted to be good at my craft. And to be good, I had to learn from the best. I studied and observed the best comics from Spain and Italy which were being published here in Spain at that time. Also Hogarth, Raymond and Caniff. But the one that really had a tremendous influence on me was Frank Robbins (who I had the pleasure to meet in person here in Barcelona). I was always impressed at the way he told a story. His use of black against whites and vice-versa. The way he drew shadows. It was almost cinematographic. The man was incredible.

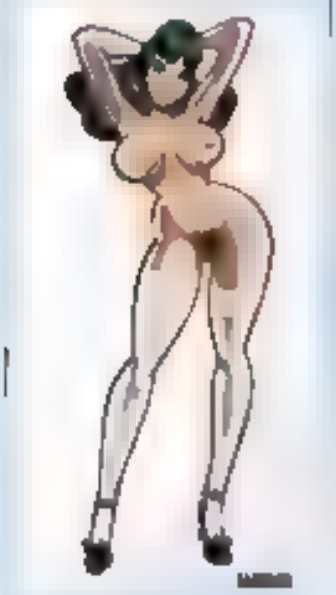
MM: Which other artists have influenced your work?

BERNET: Joe Kubert and Alex Toth. Sadly I discovered them much later on. Also Will Eisner. I admire him very much. As time goes by I'm discovering other American creators and great artists. One of the best finds I've had recently is a German magazine called Yellow Comic with spectacular drawings by Edward

Thorny and others. They're great! It's absurd for these artists and their art not to be recognized

MM: Would you include Milton Caniff and Noel Sickles among your influences?

BERNET: Oh, definitely. And again, even though I discovered Noel Sickles a little while back he's one of my favorite artists right now. Strangely enough though, I see a similarity with Noel Sickles' style to the German artist Edward Thony and I feel that Sickles might have inherited from him and passed it on to Caniff. Robbins, Toth, Graff, etc In the end, who knows, I may have some of those genes



MM: What about writers of tough guy fiction such as Dashiell Hammet or Raymond Chandler? Does your work reflect influences from them or other writers?

BERNET: Hammet, Chandler Cain, etc read and loved them all I'm a great fan of those gritty noir stories. Some years back I did a lot of book covers for these types of novels.

MM: When did you first encounter the work of American cartoonists such as Toth and Kubert?

BERNET: During the 70's I would find comic books on "Sgt. Rock" by Joe Kubert. That's when I met his work. Occasionally we would get reprints of US comics from Mexico in Barcelona. And that's where we were introduced to the works of Alex Toth. Let me tell you, we literally used to fight over these books. Kubert and Toth are phenomenal

MM: Why are you so fascinated by the 1930s? What is it about that time period that you find so interesting?

BERNET: Because it was the decade for the birth of everything that I love. The great magazine illustrators, the comics, jazz, the movies, paintings, sculpture, etc It was an exciting time

MM: Would you prefer to live in an earlier era?

BERNET: I would have loved to have lived in New York doing a daily strip with a Sunday section to.

MM: What aspects of American pop culture from the 1930s do you find most interesting, film, music, art, design, or something else?

BERNET: Well, most of the ones I mentioned earlier but basically it would have to be illustration, jazz, and the comics

MM: Will there be any more Torpedo strips forthcoming?

BERNET: I'm afraid not. And I can assure you, it's not because I don't want to

MM: What are some of the other projects we can expect to see from you in the U.S. in the next 2-3 years

BERNET: I would love to do a lot of work for the US

MM: Will you be doing any more work for American comics companies like the Batman story you drew?

BERNET: At the present I'm doing a comic book for D.C. called "Solo" It will have several stories by different writers and I believe the last story will be a "Batman" story. It's being edited by Mark Chiarello who in my view is one of the best

MM: Has your approach to comics storytelling been influenced more by comics, film, or real life?

BERNET: It would be difficult for me to say which one influences me more. I see the comics like a movie and the movie like a comic but all in all I am always conscious of the reality that surrounds me

THE FALL OF A COMICS TITAN

Will Eisner March 6th, 1917— January 3rd 2005

Well that great Bullpen in the Sky just got a massive infusion of talent with the recent death of comics legend Will Eisner. Due to complications from [illegible] Eisner succumbed to his illness on January 3rd 2005 at his home in Florida. Eisner's influence on the medium of comics is almost as large as that of his nature idol from the [illegible] with the [illegible] America creator Joe Simon.

In addition to his famous satire The Spirit, Eisner also created many memorable characters including Uncle Sam, Hawks of the Seas and [illegible] Eisner's greatest contribution was his enthusiasm for the medium of comics both as adult entertainment, and as a vehicle for educating people quickly and effectively.

Born on March 6, 1917 Eisner grew up with a love of comics, often ordering the [illegible] while still in his teens. By [illegible] he had left school and was working as an [illegible] and the two men soon formed Eisner-Iger Studios, one of the best of the early comic art packagers. The studio was famous for its [illegible] of the two partners as [illegible] Batman artist Bob Kane and the master illustrator [illegible] Lou Fine. Eisner's work was also noticeable for its [illegible] and Iger's for its slickness, which is one of the reasons he chose the talented Fine as his primary ghost artist. The studio when it was [illegible] and Eisner-Iger included Fiction House and Quality comics. When studio turned out issues of eight publishers' titles and when it [illegible] both Eisner and Iger [illegible] Eisner [illegible] Iger [illegible] Quality Comics to produce the syndicated Spirit Section, a 16-page [illegible] comic book that was [illegible] to the [illegible] newspapers of millions of readers. The Spirit, called by some fans, "The Citizen Kane of Comics" was absolutely Eisner's most impressive achievement. Upon returning from [illegible] he [illegible] produced [illegible] the [illegible] and graphics, many of the stories were [illegible] the [illegible] dialogue balloons, with the [illegible] envelope of graphics [illegible] The Spirit [illegible] with a [illegible] the other hand, Arnold and [illegible] Eisner [illegible] and [illegible] the [illegible] of [illegible] Eisner began, dropped the [illegible] for the [illegible]

While [illegible] Eisner had formed his [illegible] American [illegible] publication to produce [illegible] and [illegible] Illustrated. Eisner also produced [illegible] five publication that lived [illegible] and [illegible] for the [illegible] Iger then [illegible] and [illegible] Eisner [illegible] before graduating to emerging into the comics business when [illegible] Publications approached Eisner about [illegible] Eisner [illegible] eventually [illegible] over a complete [illegible] The [illegible] Eisner's kitchen was press, [illegible] artists [illegible] Spirit [illegible] in the late [illegible] Eisner [illegible] original [illegible] novels such as [illegible] with Lou [illegible] Eisner [illegible] 19 other [illegible] which 5 Sequential [illegible] Eisner [illegible] books [illegible] artworks. The other [illegible] of his newspaper [illegible] introduced the [illegible] several [illegible] Eisner [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

DUMB DOGS

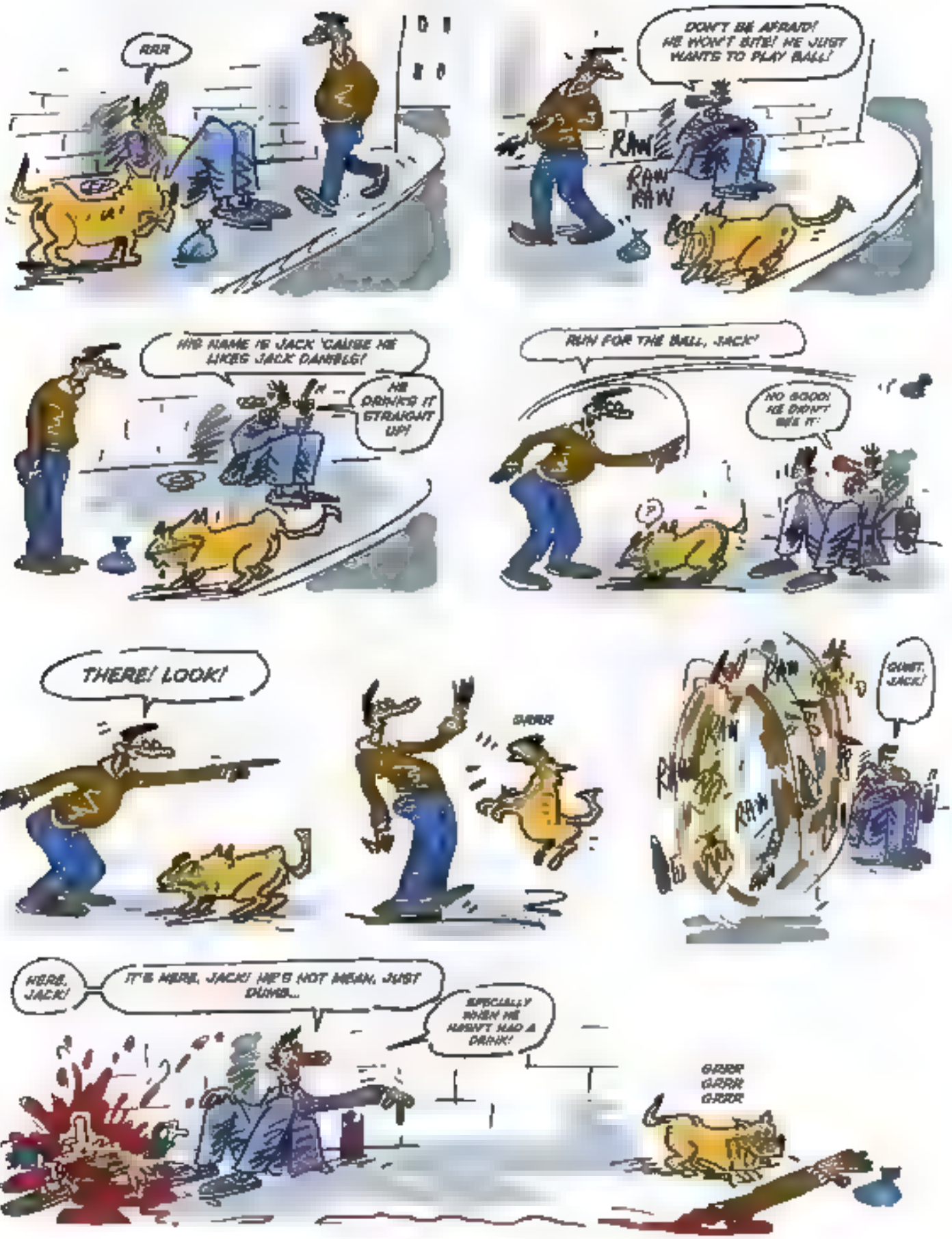
BOO!
!

DON'T WORRY! I PROMISE HE WON'T COME ON YOUR KNEE!

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOG! YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELF... LEAVING EXCREMENT ALL OVER THE SIDEWALK!

FIRST, YOU PULL A PLASTIC BAG OVER YOUR HAND, LIKE A GLOVE...
THEN, YOU PICK UP THE TURD...

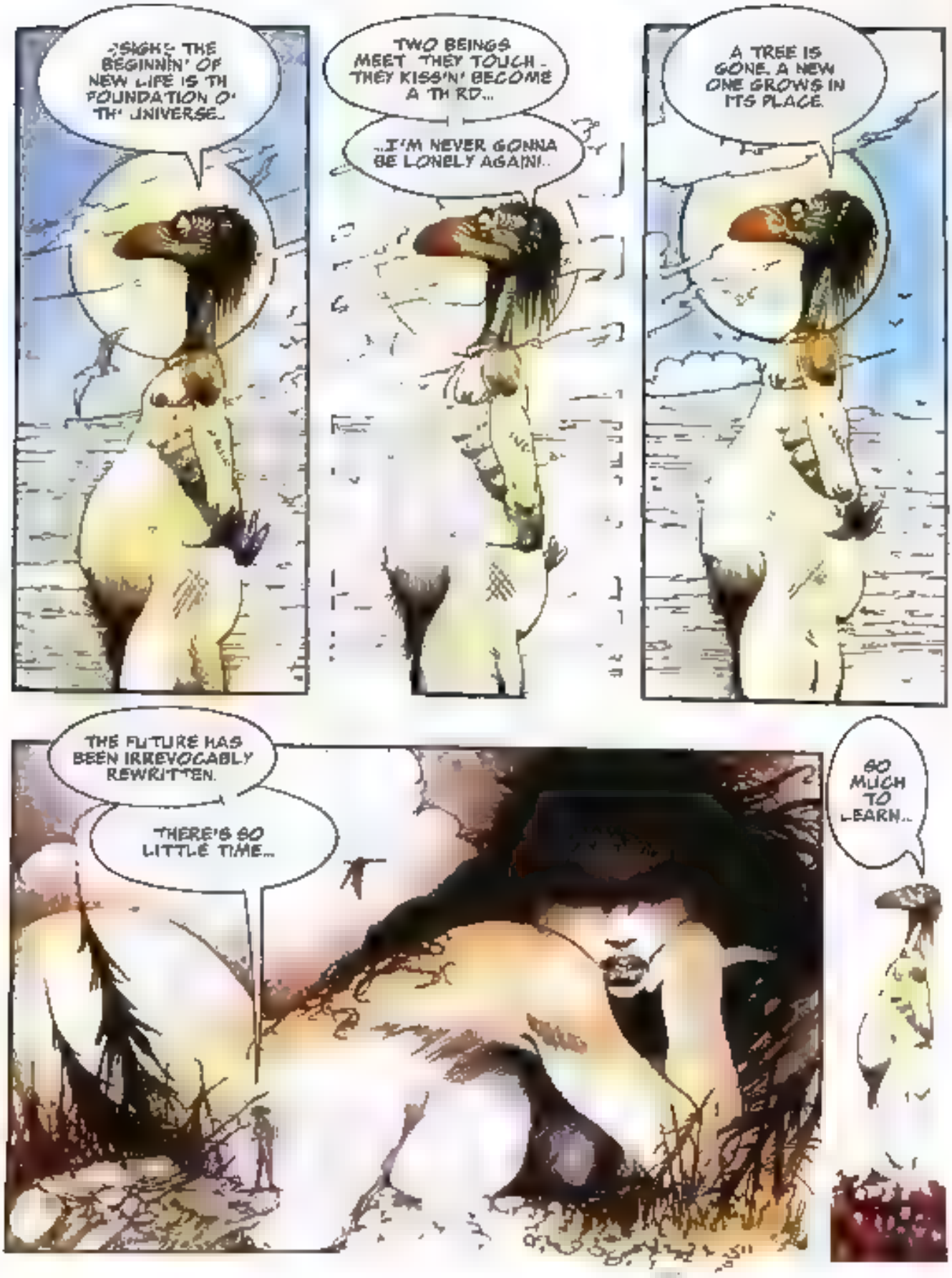
TIE UP THE BAG...
...AND YOU TOSS IT OUT!
AND I TOSS IT!!


RRR
DON'T BE AFRAID! HE WON'T BITE! HE JUST WANTS TO PLAY BALL!
RAW
RAW
RAW
HIS NAME IS JACK 'CAUSE HE LIKES JACK DANIELS!
HE DRINKS IT STRAIGHT UP!
RUN FOR THE BALL, JACK!
NO GOOD! HE DIDN'T SEE IT!
THERE! LOOK!
GRRR
QUIET, JACK!
RAW
RAW
RAW
HERE, JACK!
IT'S HERE, JACK! HE'S NOT MEAN, JUST DUMB...
ESPECIALLY WHEN HE HASN'T HAD A DRINK!
GRRR
GRRR
GRRR

MUDWOG

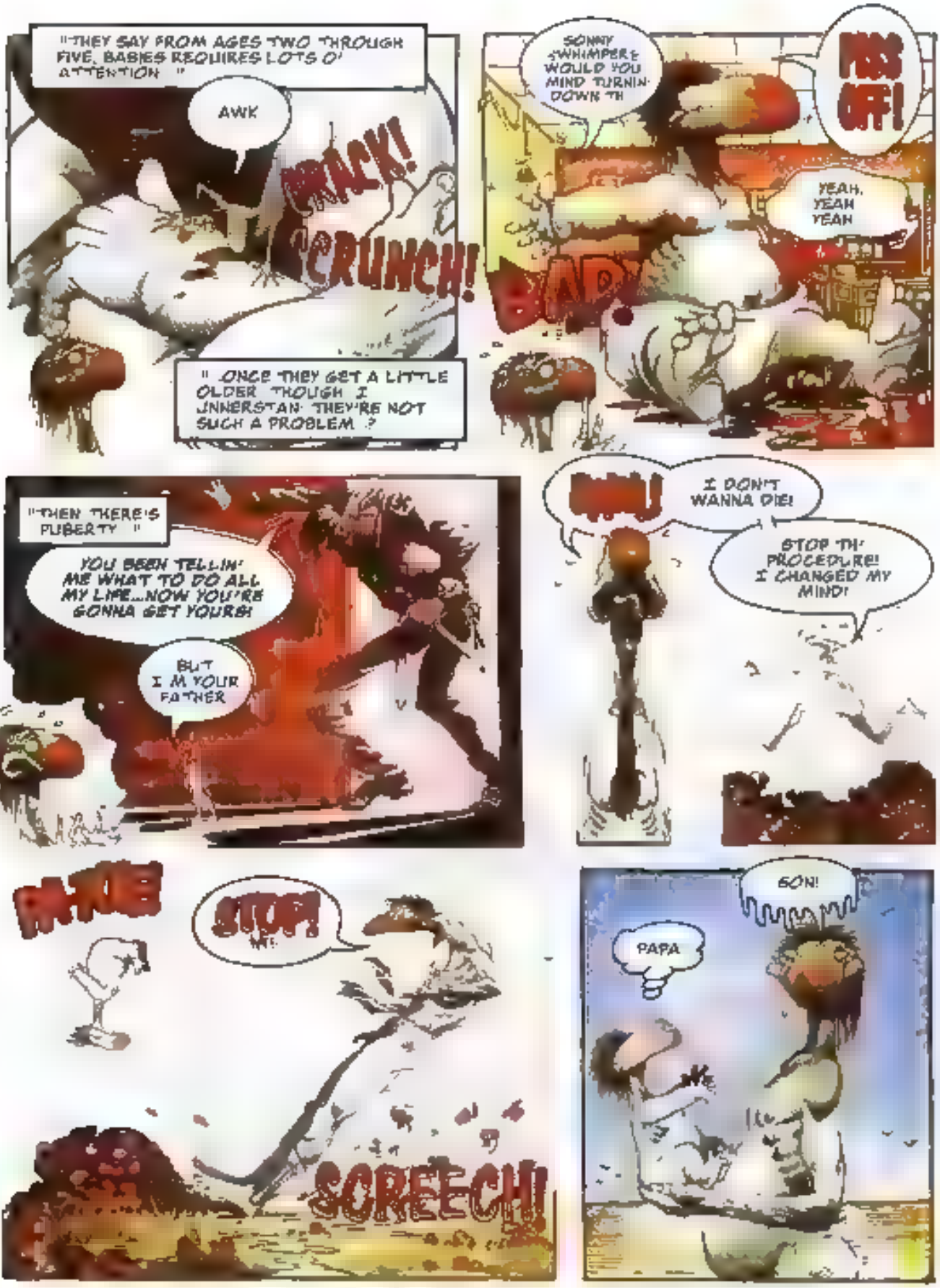
PART 3

WRITER/ARTIST/CREATOR - ARTHUR SUYDAM


..SIGH.. THE BEGINNIN' OF NEW LIFE IS TH FOUNDATION O' TH' UNIVERSE..
TWO BEINGS MEET THEY TOUCH - THEY KISS'N' BECOME A TH RD...
..I'M NEVER GONNA BE LONELY AGAIN!..
A TREE IS GONE. A NEW ONE GROWS IN ITS PLACE.
THE FUTURE HAS BEEN IRREVOCABLY REWRITTEN.
THERE'S SO LITTLE TIME...
SO MUCH TO LEARN..

SHE'S ALL OVER IT..
COMES NATURAL TO A WOMAN.
NO HIT AN RUN DRIVER HERE. NO SIR...NOT ME.
--AND YOU'RE MISSIN' THE WHOLE SHE-BANG
NO SIREE --BOB. MISS OUT ON THAT--
I WANT TO DEPRIVE HIM OF ALL THE THINGS I HAD TOO MUCH OF
A-1 ALL THE WAY!
THE POSSI-BILITIES ARE ENDLESS
HE'S GONNA BE SOME-THING...
..SOME-THING BIG..
..MAYBE PRESIDENT!
..MAYBE A GIRL!?

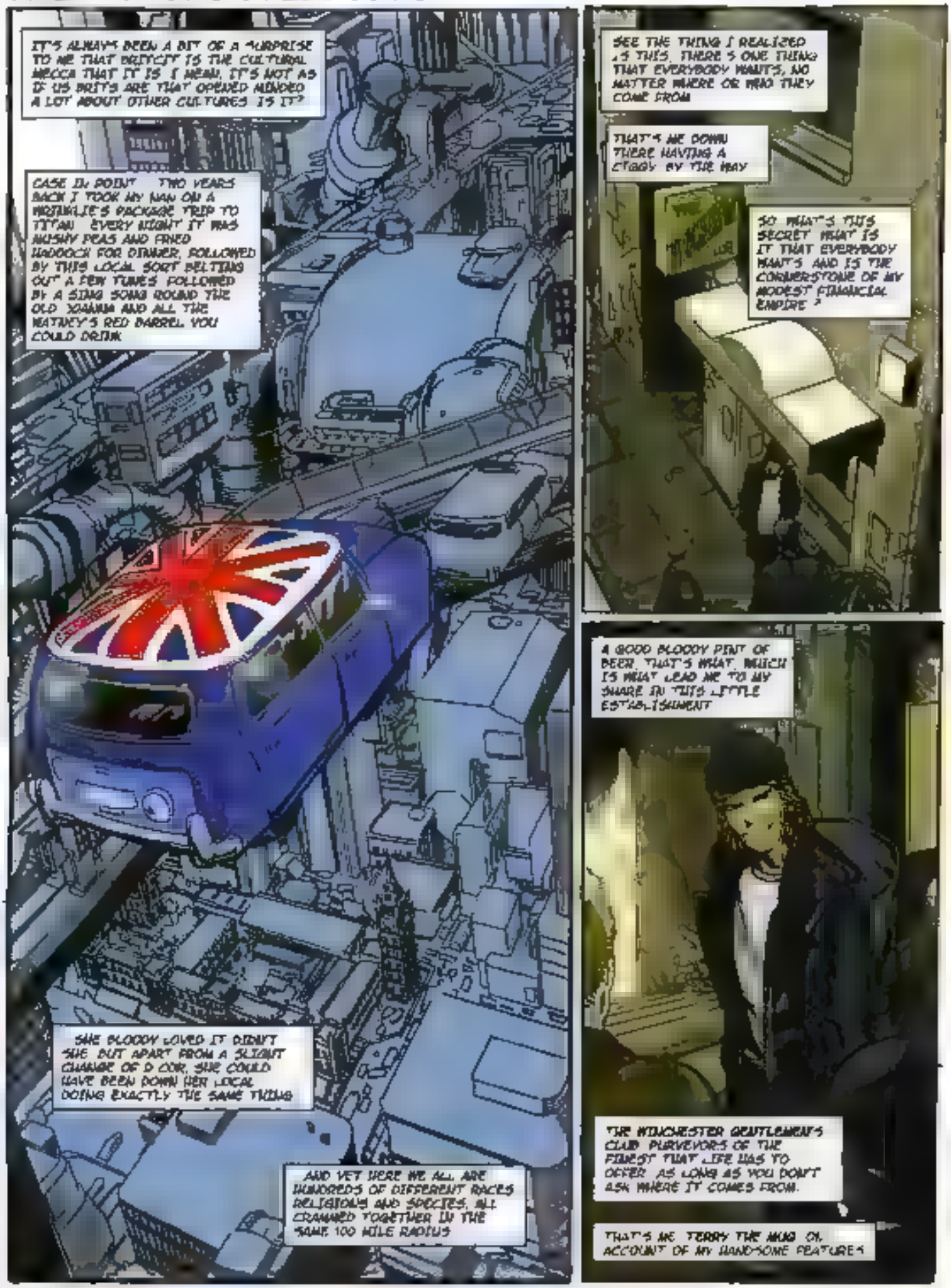
LEROY . JEROME.. BILL
MARY LAVERNE
JEEEEZ U.B.. A NAME IS SO PERMANENT! WHAT IF HE DON'T LIKE IT?
THE SOCIAL STIGMA COULD BE CRIPPLING
PUSH A TENDER UN-DEVELOPED MIND TO THE VERY BRINK
WHAT TO DO WHAT TO DO!!!
THEN THERE'S ALWAYS THE THREAT OF FRINGE EXTREMIST GROUPS, GLOBAL WARMING AND TAXES TO CONTEND WITH
HMMMM.
THIS IS MORE COMPLICATED THAN I THOUGHT
OHHHH! THE ANXIETY
SUPPOSE HE COULD BE A PRETTY BIG BABY!...
"THAT COULD PRESENT SOME PROBLEMS."


"THEY SAY FROM AGES TWO THROUGH FIVE, BABIES REQUIRES LOTS O' ATTENTION "
AWK
CRACK!
CRUNCH!
" ONCE THEY GET A LITTLE OLDER THOUGH I JINNERSTAN' THEY'RE NOT SUCH A PROBLEM "
SONNY (WHIMPERS) WOULD YOU MIND TURNIN' DOWN TH
PISS OFF!
YEAH, YEAH YEAH
BAP!
"THEN THERE'S PUBERTY "
YOU BEEN TELLIN' ME WHAT TO DO ALL MY LIFE...NOW YOU'RE GONNA GET YOURS!
BUT I M YOUR FATHER
I DON'T WANNA DIE!
STOP TH' PROCEDURE! I CHANGED MY MIND!
AHHH
STOP!
SCREECH!
SON!
PAPA

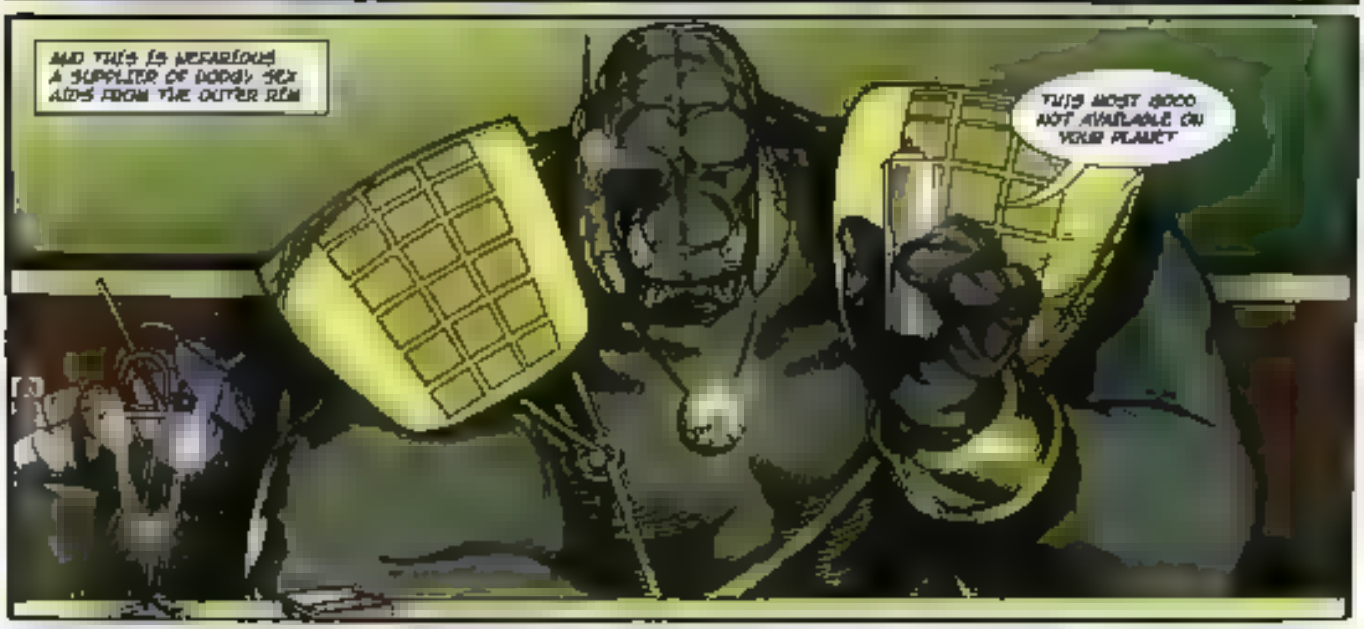
SNORE!
AND SO THEY LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER
HMM POOR KID'S ALL POOPED OUT
NOW I CAN
TAP! TAP! TAP!
AH?
OH IT'S YOU SO YOU WANT ME T'READ YOU A BEDTIME STORY TOO HUH?
OKAY LEMME GET MY BOOK AND CHAIR 'N I'LL BE RIGHT BACK
NOW WHERE DID I PUT IT?
AHA
GOT IT!
BOOM! BOOF! CRASH!
NOW LEMME SEE HERE...
AH! HERE'S ONE OF MY FAVORITES

THE . . .
AND THE BEARS LIVED HAPPILY EVER EVER AFTER The End
WAAAAHHH!
OH YOU DIDN'T LIKE THAT STORY, EH, JUNIOR? WELL PIPE DOWN AND I'LL TELL YOU ANOTHER ONE
TO BE CONTINUED

THE WINCHESTER CLUB


IT'S ALWAYS BEEN A BIT OF A SURPRISE TO ME THAT BRITCITY IS THE CULTURAL MECCA THAT IT IS. I MEAN, IT'S NOT AS IF US BRIT'S ARE THAT OPENED MINDED A LOT ABOUT OTHER CULTURES IS IT?
CASE IN POINT. TWO YEARS BACK I TOOK MY NAN ON A NOSTALGIE'S PACKAGE TRIP TO TITAN. EVERY NIGHT IT WAS MUSHY PEAS AND FRIED HADDOCK FOR DINNER, FOLLOWED BY THIS LOCAL SORT BELTING OUT A FEW TUNES FOLLOWED BY A SING SONG ROUND THE OLD JOANNA AND ALL THE WATNEY'S RED BARREL YOU COULD DRINK
SHE BLOODY LOVED IT DIDN'T SHE. BUT APART FROM A SLIGHT CHANGE OF D COR, SHE COULD HAVE BEEN DOWN HER LOCAL DOING EXACTLY THE SAME THING
AND YET HERE WE ALL ARE HUNDREDS OF DIFFERENT RACES RELIGIONS AND SPECIES, ALL CRAMMED TOGETHER IN THE SAME 100 MILE RADIUS
SEE THE THING I REALIZED IS THIS. THERE'S ONE THING THAT EVERYBODY WANTS, NO MATTER WHERE OR WHO THEY COME FROM
THAT'S ME DOWN THERE HAVING A CHEEKY AV THE WAY
SO WHAT'S THIS SECRET WHAT IS IT THAT EVERYBODY WANTS AND IS THE CORNERSTONE OF MY MODEST FINANCIAL EMPIRE?
A GOOD BLOODY PINT OF BEER. THAT'S WHAT. WHICH IS WHAT LEAD ME TO MY SHARE IN THIS LITTLE ESTABLISHMENT
THE WINCHESTER GENTLEMEN'S CLUB PURVEYORS OF THE FINEST THAT LIFE HAS TO OFFER AS LONG AS YOU DON'T ASK WHERE IT COMES FROM.
THAT'S ME. TERRY THE MUG. ON ACCOUNT OF MY HANDSOME FEATURES

THESE ARE MY MATES AND BUSINESS PARTNERS
NORTHERN IRELAND. DON'T KNOW WHAT HIS REAL NAME IS BUT WE CALL HIM NORTHERN IRELAND BECAUSE HE'S FUCKED WITH THE LOT OF US
PAUL 'POINTS OF VIEW' JOHNSON ON ACCOUNT OF HIM HAVING A LETTER READ OUT ON THE TELLY WHEN WE WERE KIDS
AND THIS IS TWEETY BIRD, ON ACCOUNT OF HIS BAD LUCK WITH THE FAIRER SEX HAS LED TO HIS STRAINED RELATIONS WITH PUSSY
SO WHAT YOU GOT THEN?


AND THIS IS NEFARIOUS A SUPPLIER OF BODILY SEX AIDS FROM THE OUTER RIM
THIS MOST GOOD NOT AVAILABLE ON YOUR PLANET

WHAT IS IT THEN
IT VIAGRAX HIGHLY STRONG, STIMULANT FROM EROTICON III

DO WHAT?
YOU TAKE IT YOU GET MUCH WOOD YOU BE ABLE TO HANG TOWELS OFF YOU TO DRY FOR EVEN THE UGLIEST FEMALE

PSSS
WELL, I'LL GIVE IT A GO THEN

WHAT'S HAPPENING?
TWEETY'S TRYING OUT SOME ALIEN VIAGRA
OH, BLOODY HELL!
WHAT HAPPENED NOW?
YOU MIGHT FIND AN UNATTRACTIVE FEMALE
NO PROBLEM OF MINE! CHECK HERE DARLIN'
SO, WHAT'S SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN?
FEMALE WILL DETECT DESIRES FROM YOUR ALTERED PHEROMONES AND TRIGGER TRANSFORMATION
IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU?

BUT BE WARNED THERE IS POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECT
HOW MUCH COULD POSSIBLY BE WRONG WITH SUCH A FINE LOOKING LADY?
THUDD
KRASK

ARRRRR
BOK
SKRSKA!

AUGH!
HERE USE THIS.
WHAT THE HELL AM I SUPPOSED TO DO WITH THIS?
IT VIBRO-PLEASURE-SIVER FROM TARSIS III, IT GIVE HIGH VOLTAGE ELECTRIC SHOCK TO HELP REACH CLIMAX!
BOLLOCKS!

SO HE WENT TO TELL STRAIGHT HOW WANT TO SELL US ALIEN WOMEN THAT TURNS MEN INTO SLAVES FOR MORE MONETARY GAIN AND PLEASURE?
GET HIM MORE

FELICIDAD-CLOUD

SHIP'S LOG ON BOARD "THE DARLING" DAY ONE. HUMANITY SUCH AS WE KNOW IT IS IN ITS FINAL THROES
YET NONE OF MY COMPANIONS HAS SHOWN ANY INTEREST IN KEEPING A LOG SO I HAVE DECIDED TO WRITE ONE MYSELF
.. TRY TO ACCOMPLISH THIS TASK TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY. EVEN THOUGH I DON'T REALLY HAVE THE EDUCATION FOR IT
WHAT THE HELL ARE THEY DOING ?!
... THEY SHOULD BE HERE
TODAY NEARLY FOUR MONTHS AFTER THE COMING OF "THE CLOUD" WE HAD TO ESCAPE FROM THE FACTORY WHERE WE HAD TAKEN SHELTER.

WELL?!
STILL NOTHING
YOU'RE JOKING
THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT AT THE MINE WORTH TAKING RISK'S OVER THIS MISSION WAS DANGEROUS AND POINTLESS...
I TOLD THEM, OVER AND OVER AGAIN!
WHAT'S HARRY DOING?
HE'S IN THE BARGE HE'S PROBABLY FOOLING AROUND WITH HIS HONEY!

THERE, MY LOVELY! ONE MORE BOUNCE
AND YOU'LL PURR AGAIN, JUST LIKE YOU USED TO
HARRY YOU SHOULDN'T TALK LIKE THAT TO THE MACHINE! WHEN YOU'RE OUT OF EARSHOT THE OTHERS SAY YOU HAVE A WEIRD RELATIONSHIP WITH IT.
I DON'T GIVE A DAMN WHAT THE OTHERS SAY, ISAAC! BESIDES, I TALK TO YOU TOO AND YOU'RE A MACHINE RIGHT?!
YES. BUT YOU CAN'T COMPARE ME WITH THAT ENGINE, ALTHOUGH I DO NOT DENY MY USEFULNESS.
WHAT?! WHAT WAS THAT?!
TWO SHOTS FIRED FROM A "GRANDE" REVOLVER. THERE WAS AN INTERVAL OF ABOUT ONE SECOND BETWEEN THEM.
THIS IS JUST A SIMPLE SUPPOSITION, BUT SINCE THE ONLY PERSON WHO OWNS A REVOLVER OF THAT TYPE IS PROFESSOR MARIPOSA...
I'D ASSUME HE FIRED THE SHOTS!

THERE THEY ARE
WHAT ARE THEY FIRING AT?
I DON'T KNOW!
OH MY GOD!! WHAT IS THAT?!
GIVE ME THE BINOCULARS!

STAY HERE AND DON'T MOVE, ISAAC! I'LL GO FIND OUT!
WITH YOUR PERMISSION, HARRY, I'LL TURN THE ENGINE ON. YOU NEVER KNOW.
YOU'RE RIGHT! YOU CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL IN THIS DAMN JUNGLE! GO AHEAD: "THE DARLING" WILL SOON BE READY TO MOVE ON!
WE MUST GO HELP THEM! THEY'RE IN TROUBLE!!
WHAT THE HELL ARE THEY FIRING AT?!
AN UNKNOWN ENTITY, AS FAR AS I CAN TELL!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?! IT HAS TO BE SOMETHING WE KNOW OF!
NO! I MEAN IT IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ANYTHING!!

DJABI!
JODIE
I'VE SPRAINED MY ANKLE!!
DON'T PANIC. YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT
I'M WITH YOU!
HURRY UP, DAMN IT!!
!!
AWWW

WILLIAM, GET OUTTA THERE!
FALL BACK! WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED!

HURRY! HURRY!

LOCK THE DOOR, HARRY! FAST!

I THINK WE GOT IT!

SHIT! PABLO GOT HIT

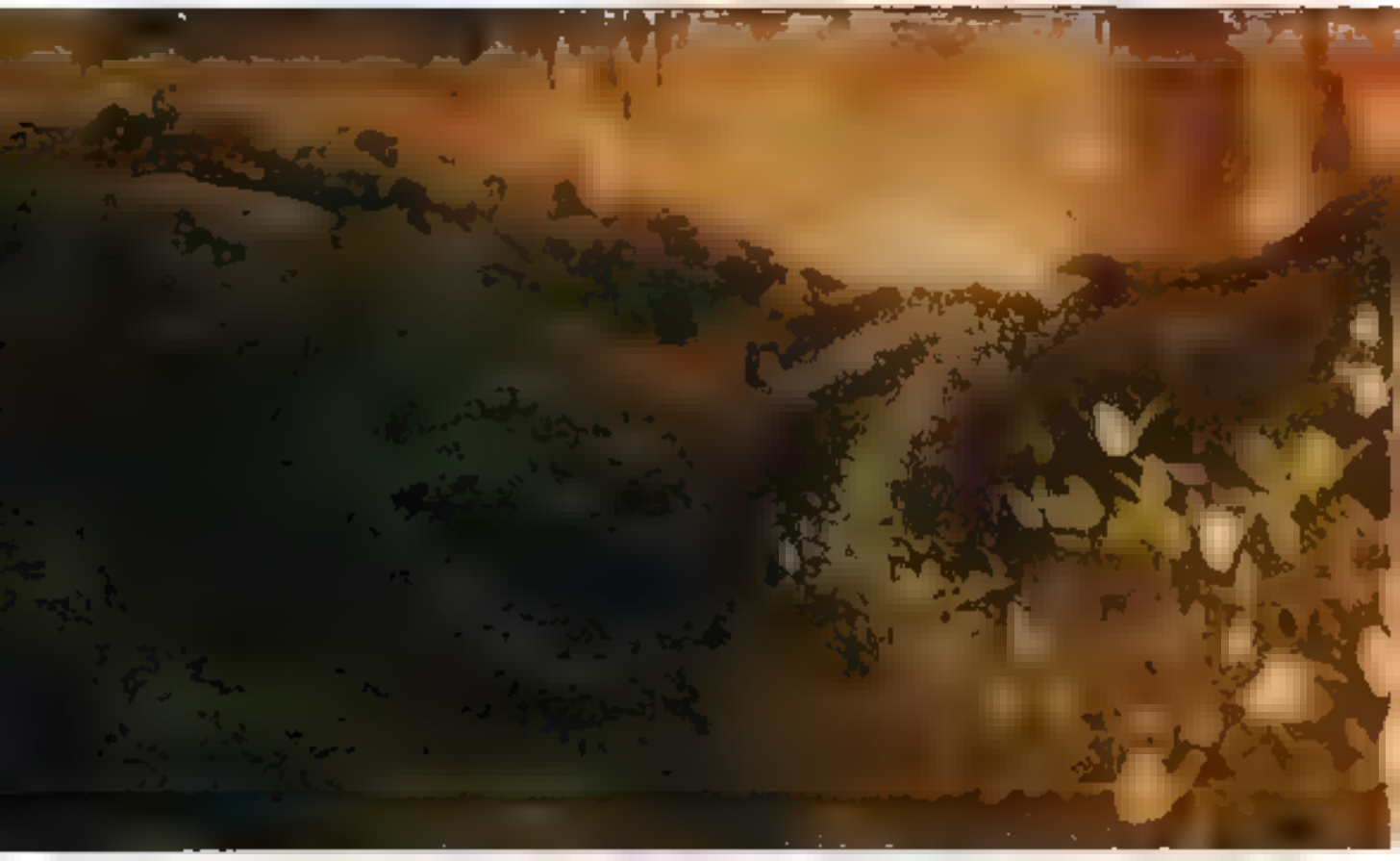
WHAT WAS THAT?! SOME NEW KIND OF METAMORPHE?

THAT'S WHAT IT LOOKED LIKE! BUT IT WAS VERY DIFFERENT FROM ANYTHING WE'D SEEN BEFORE... AND THAT WORRIES ME!

THEY WERE JUST BUTTERFLIES.

HOW?

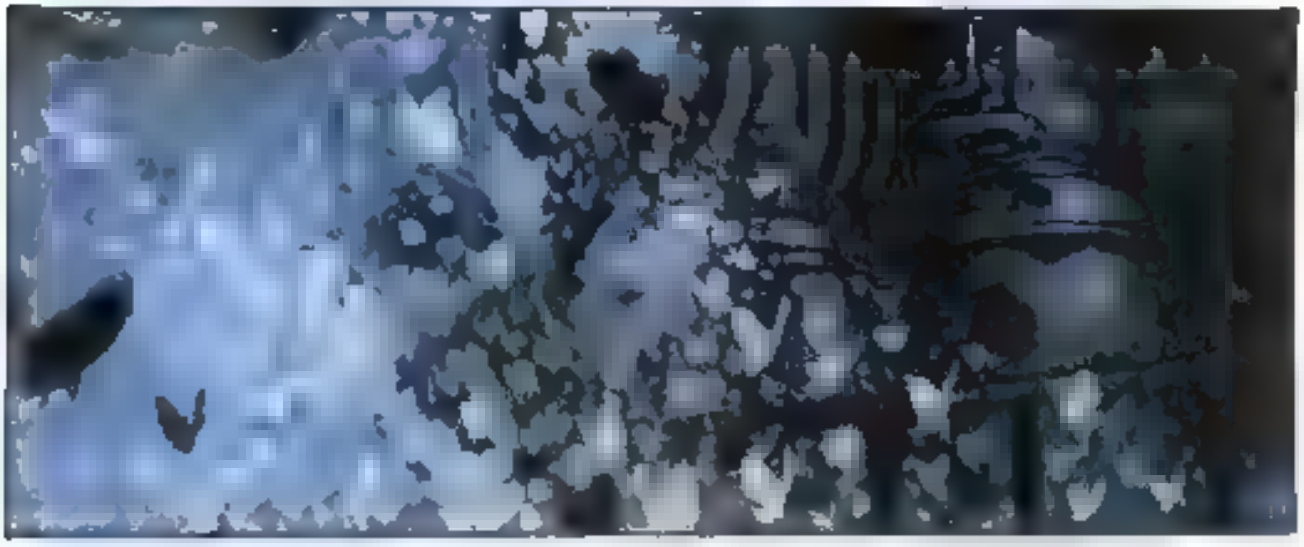
HOW COULD YOU IMAGINE ANYTHING LIKE THAT?



WELL! I SUGGEST THAT WE MOVE OUR DEPARTURE DATE FORWARD. WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!
HARRY?
NO PROBLEM! "THE DARLING" IS READY!
THOUSANDS OF BUTTERFLIES ARE SWARMING TOWARD THE FACTORY!
CARLO!
THERE WEREN'T THAT MANY IN OUR METAMORPHE. AND WE DON'T NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE AS FAST AS WE CAN
WE NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE... RIGHT NOW!!!
LOOK!

ROBERTO!!!
SIMON!! DON'T STAY UP THERE!!
HARRY! WE'RE ABOUT TO WEIGH ANCHOR! GET A MOVE ON!
SIMON! COME! THERE'S NOTHING MORE TO BE DONE!

GOOD LORD! IT'S LIKE BEING IN A NIGHTMARE!!



WE'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THEY COME BACK!
IT'S AMAZ-ING!
HURRY UP, PROFESSOR! THESE AREN'T THE SORT OF BUTTERFLIES YOU CAN STICK A PIN INTO!

ARE THE ENGINES TURNING?
YES! AND WE'RE READY TO GO! ISAAC COMPUTED THAT HE SHOULD SWITCH THEM ON WHEN HE HEARD THE GUNSHOTS!
THAT ROBOT'S BRILLIANT!
HURRY, WILLIAM! WE'RE NOT SAFE YET!!
WILLIAM! IS THE FLAME-THROWER ON THE DECK?!
YEAH!
GOOD! IT LOOKS LIKE WE MAY NEED IT!!
AMBROSE! STEP ON IT! HURRY!!

SHIP'S LOG. DAY TWO. I'LL FILL IN WHAT HAPPENED SINCE I STOPPED WRITING YESTERDAY AND GO, AS DJAB HAD PREDICTED...
THE FLAME THROWER PLAYED A CRUCIAL ROLE IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE METAMORPHE. THE BARGE COULDN'T GET AWAY FROM THE PIER QUICKLY ENOUGH.
IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR THE DESTRUCTIVE FORCE OF THE FLAME-THROWER, OUR MISSION WOULD HAVE BEEN ABORTED.
THE CREATURE WENT UP IN FLAMES AS IF IT HAD BEEN A GIANT PAPER BALL OF THE MILLIONS OF LEPIDOPTERA (TO USE PROFESSOR MARIPOSA'S SCIENTIFIC TERM).
THAT FORMED IT. ONLY A HANDFUL SURVIVED, AND THEY WERE LEFT FLAPPING ABOUT MADLY IN EVERY DIRECTION.

AND YET SOON AFTERWARDS, JUST AS THE BARGE WAS REACHING THE MIDDLE OF THE RIVER, A FEW BUTTERFLIES DARED TO APPROACH IT
DJAB WAS GOING TO REDUCE THEM TO ASHES TOO, WHEN THE PROFESSOR BEGGED HIM NOT TO.
THEN THE PROFESSOR SUDDENLY LEFT, AND JUST AS SUDDENLY REAPPEARED HAVING A MAGNIFICENT BUTTERFLY NET
FOLLOWING A SHORT DISCUSSION, MY HUMAN COMPANIONS ALLOWED THE ENERGETIC PROFESSOR TO CAPTURE TWO SPECIMENS, SO HE COULD STUDY THEM.

One night has gone by We are now beginning our second day on board "The Darling." We are sailing down the Ugamos River and heading toward Puerta de la Felicidad...
OUR FINAL DESTI-NATION
IF WE DON'T MEET WITH ANY PROBLEMS, OUR JOURNEY SHOULD TAKE ABOUT THREE WEEKS. FOR THE MOMENT ALL'S WELL.
EVERYTHING IS QUIET AND PEACEFUL, ON THE RIVER AND ON THE BARGE. THE CREW IS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE CALM TO GET SOME REST
ABOUT AN HOUR AGO, AMBROSE CUNNINGHAM, OUR PILOT TOLD US THAT WE WERE ABOUT TO ENTER A LARGE CLOUD, ONE OF THOSE NOXIOUS FOG BANKS THAT LIE STAGNANT AT THE BOTTOM OF SO MANY VAL LEYS.

WHAT DO WE DO NOW? SHOULD WE WAIT A BIT LONGER?
NO! IT'S OK! IF WE INHALED CONTAMINATION FROM THE CLOUD, IT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED LONG AGO!
ACTUALLY, IF I WERE IN CHARGE, WE WOULDN'T EVEN BE WEARING THESE DAMN SO-CALLED PROTECTION MASKS!
SO, DEAR CHILDREN, WOULD YOU MIND GIVING YOUR PROFESSOR A DEMONSTRATION OF SYMBIOSIS?
LOOK, DJABI GIANT TURTLES!
D'YOU THINK THEY'RE DANGEROUS?

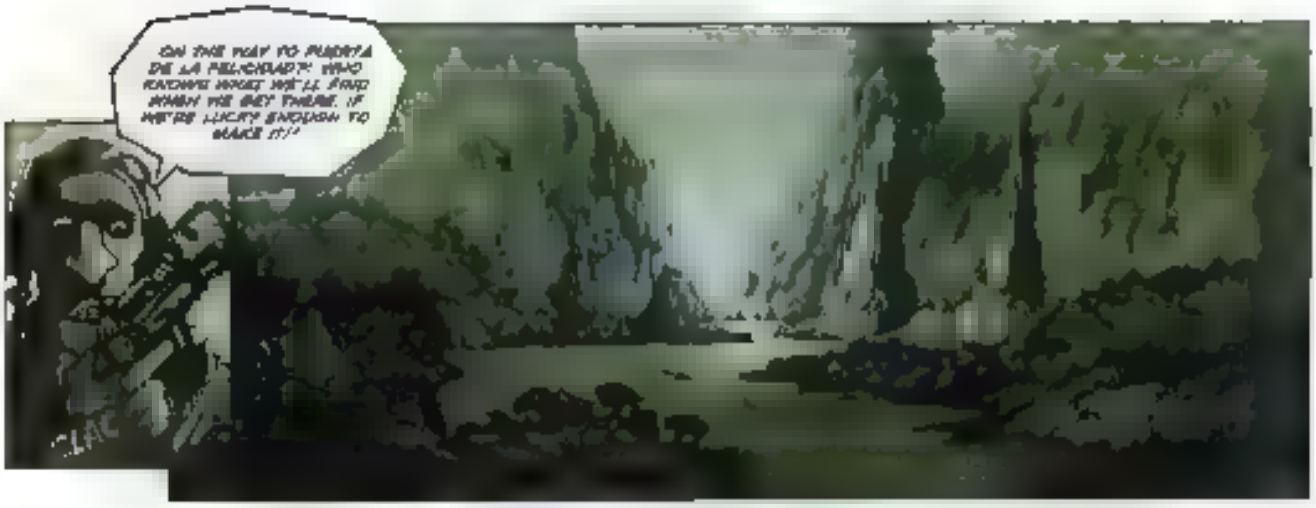
I DON'T KNOW, LITTLE SISTER. IN THIS WORLD, WHICH IS NOW OURS, ONE THING IS CERTAIN: IT'S SAFER IF YOU DON'T TRUST ANYTHING...
.. OR ANYONE AT ALL
DID YOU HEAR THAT?
?!
IT SOUNDED LIKE A CRY! WE SHOULD GO CHECK!
WAIT A SECOND!
OVER THERE, IN THE TREES, THERE SEEMS TO BE SOMETHING.
YES... AND THAT "SOMETHING" IS WATCHING US!

LET GO, WILLIAM! I'M GOING TO THROW UP...
LORD, HOW...?!
SIMONI!!
HUMANOIDS!
WHAT ARE THEY?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
MEN! HUMAN META-MORPHES! NOT ANIMALS!!
LEMME SEE!
SHIP'S LOG. DAY THREE. SIMONI WAS SAVAGELY MURDERED. I HEARD GWENALYS CRY OUT IN DESPAIR AND I RAN TO THE CABINS...

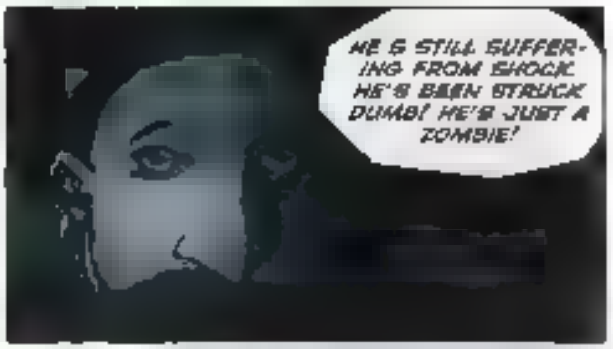
IN THE MEANTIME, JODIE AND DJAB HAD SPOTTED HUMAN CREATURES RUNNING ALONG THE BANKS OF THE JOANOS
THIS, ADDED TO SIMONI'S MURDER, PLUNGED MY COMPANIONS IN A STATE OF SEVERE ANXIETY AND TO MAKE THINGS WORSE, WE WERE FOLLOWED BY METAMORPHES ALL DAY
AT NIGHTFALL WE CAST ANCHOR IN THE MIDDLE OF THE RIVER
CARLO ASKED ME TO KEEP AN EYE ON THE APPROACHES TO THE BARGE. THE REST OF THE CREW HELD A MEETING TO REVIEW THE SITUATION.
EVEN IF WE ASSUME THAT THE METAMORPHES THAT ARE FOLLOWING US ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR SIMONI'S DEATH, HOW AND WHEN..
DID THEY GET ON BOARD? WE MUST FIND OUT BECAUSE IF THEY DID IT ONCE THEY CAN DO IT AGAIN!

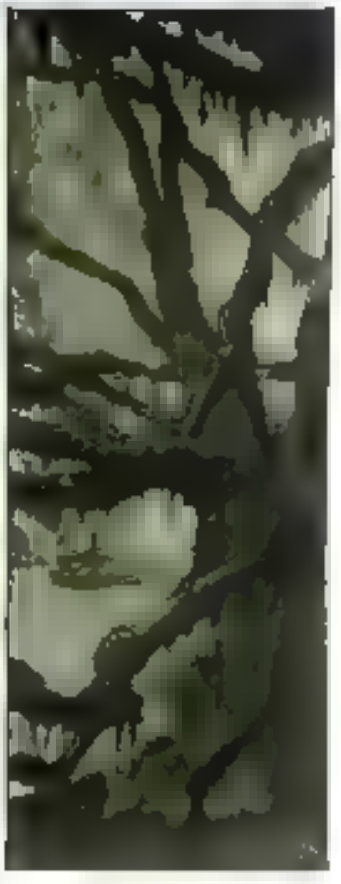
I WISH SOMEONE WOULD TELL ME HOW THEY MANAGED TO KILL SIMON! WITHOUT ATTRACTING OUR ATTENTION. AND WITHOUT LEAVING THE SLIGHTEST SHRED OF EVIDENCE?! DID THEY USE SOME MAGIC TRICK, 'CAUSE WE'VE SEARCHED THE SHOE HIGH AND LOW AND WE HAVEN'T FOUND ANYTHING
WHAT ARE YOU GETTING AT, CARLO?
NOTHING! BUT YOU'LL NOTE THAT SEVERAL OF US HEARD GWENALYS SCREAM, BUT NO ONE HEARD A CRY OUT OF SIMON!!
REITERATE MY QUESTION, CARLO! WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL US?!
YOU KNOW THAT SIMON'S DOOR WAS CLOSED. UNTIL GWENALYS FOUND THE BODY, IT'S POSSIBLE THAT SIMON SCREAMED AND WE DIDN'T HEAR HER.
I DON'T GIVE A DAMN WHETHER SHE CRIED OUT OR NOT! I DON'T SEE WHERE ALL THIS IS LEADING TO! JUST AS I DON'T GIVE A DAMN.
... HOW THOSE STINKING METAS MANAGED TO GET ON BOARD: THEY DID IT. THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS! NOW WE HAVE TO WORK OUT WHAT WE HAVE TO DO SO THAT WE DON'T END UP DEAD TOO!

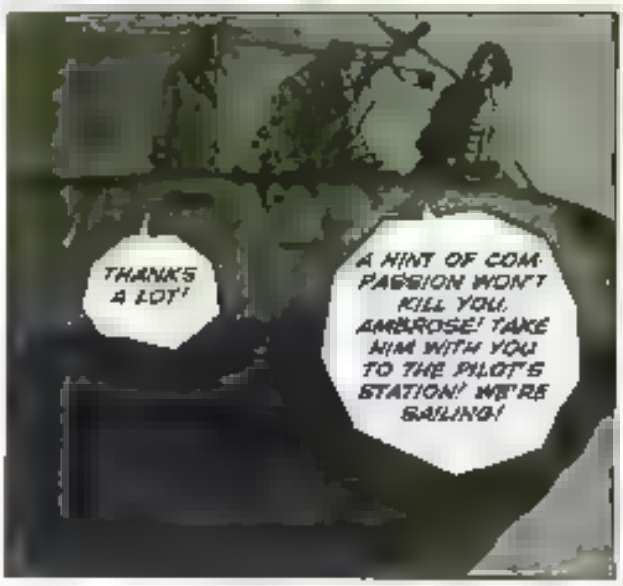
SO THEN?
THEY'RE STILL THERE ABOUT TWENTY OF THEM, I'D SAY.
SOME OF THEM ARE WATCHING US. I'M NOT SURE WHAT THE OTHERS ARE UP TO. I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY CRAFT!
MAYBE THEY SWAM HERE, AND THEN USED THE ANCHOR TO HELP THEM CLIMB UP BOARD
DID YOU SEE WHAT A FEW BUTTERFLIES CAN DO? SO STOP TRYING TO FIND EXPLANATIONS; ANYTHING'S POSSIBLE!
THEY MAY EVEN BE ABLE TO TELEPORT THEMSELVES!
THEY COULD PROBABLY JUST SNAP THEIR FINGERS AND REDUCE US TO PULP!
THE BEST WE CAN DO NOW IS TO REMAIN ON OUR GUARD AND PRAY THAT THEY JUST FORGET ALL ABOUT US! IF THEY DON'T...
OUR JOURNEY WILL BE SHORT BUT NOT SWEET!!
DAMN CLOUD! IT'S CONTAMINATED PLANTS, ANIMALS AND EVEN HUMANS! WHO KNOWS WHAT OTHER SURPRISES LIE IN STORE FOR US...



HOW'S GUNTER?
WORKING IN TEAMS OF TWO IS A GOOD IDEA. SO LONG AS GUNTER ISN'T YOUR PARTNER. IF YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW WHAT I THINK!







TO BE CONTINUED ON PAGE 108

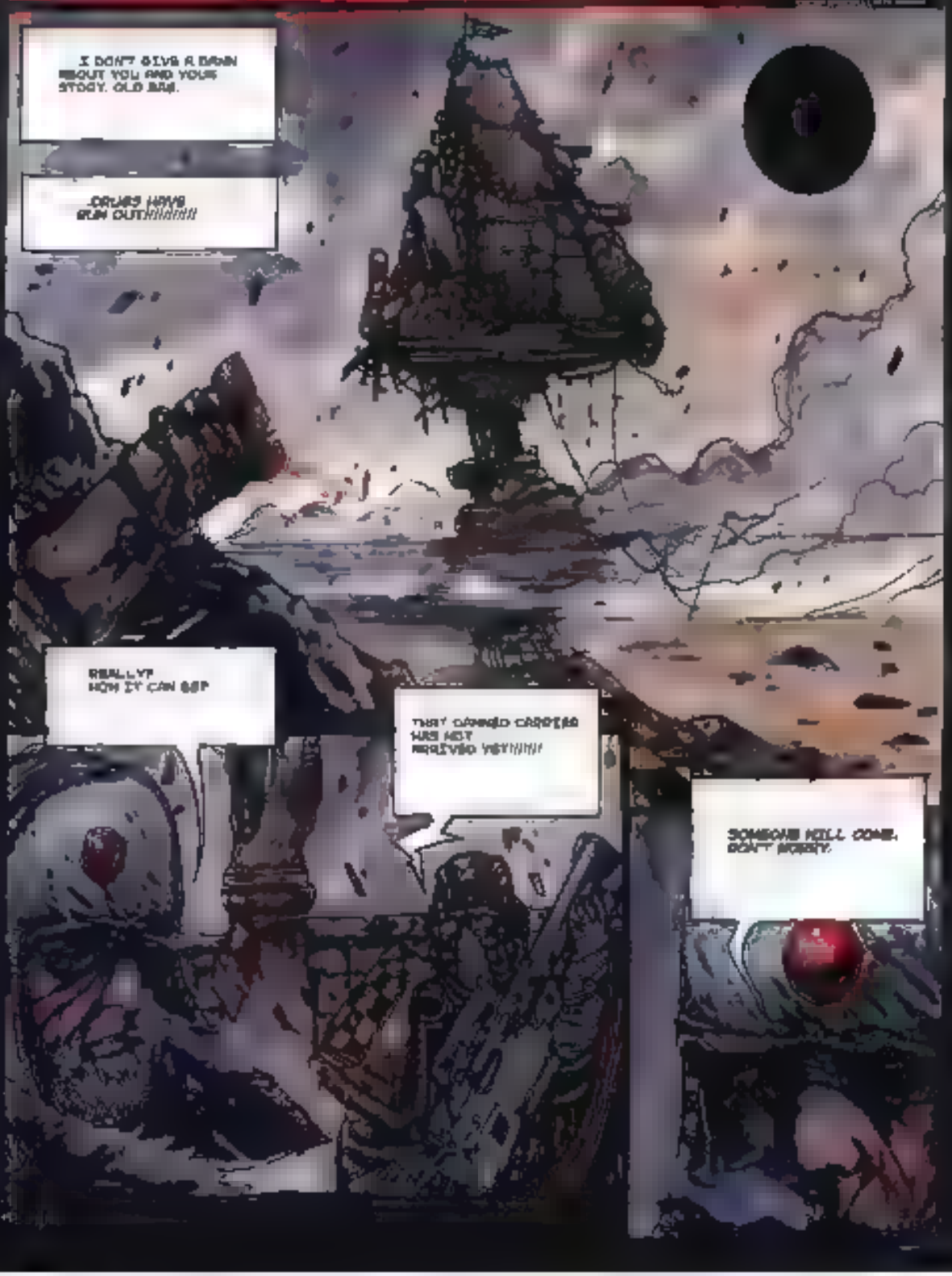
scenes from the border

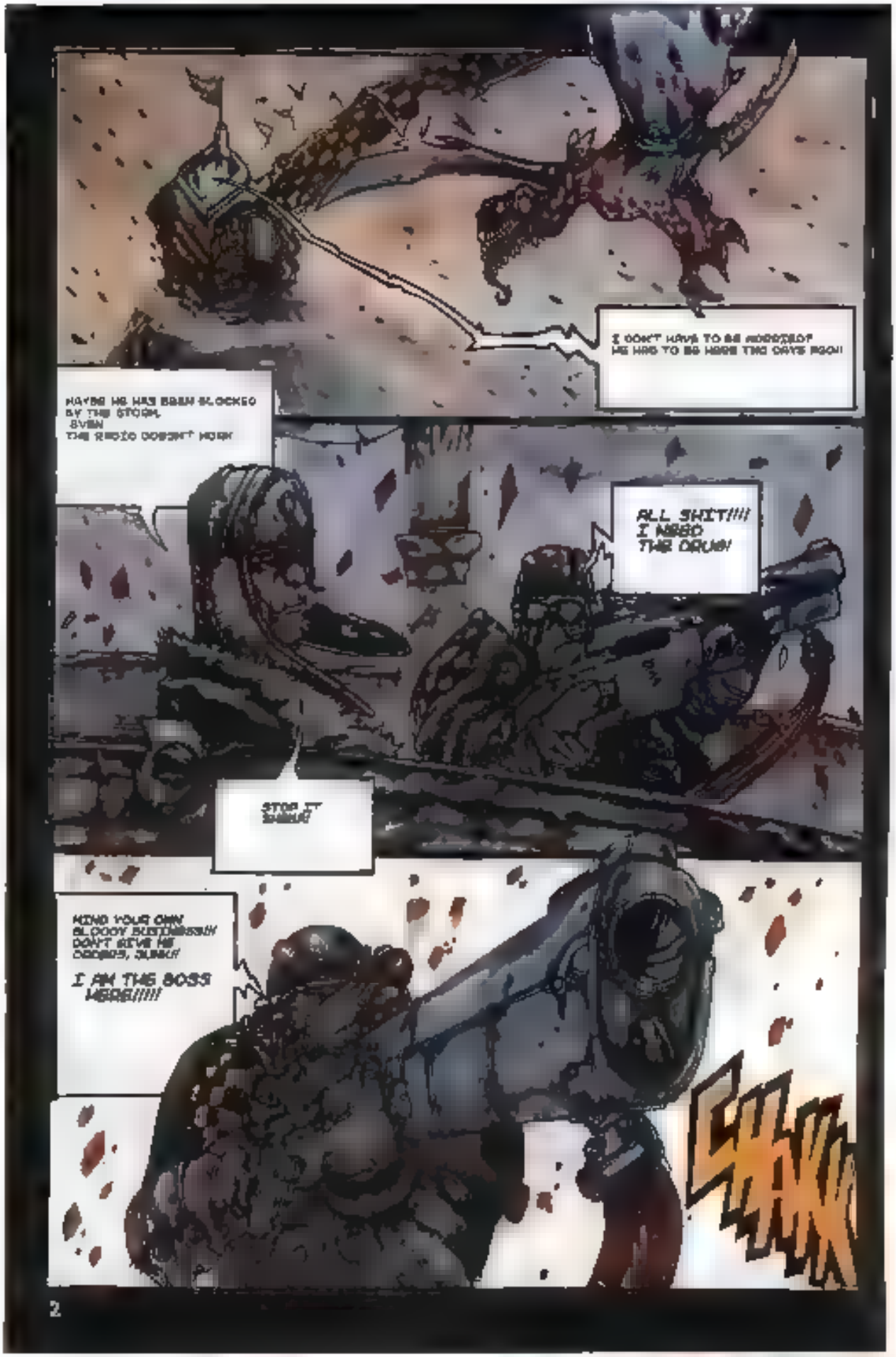
STORY
MARCO DELLA VERDE

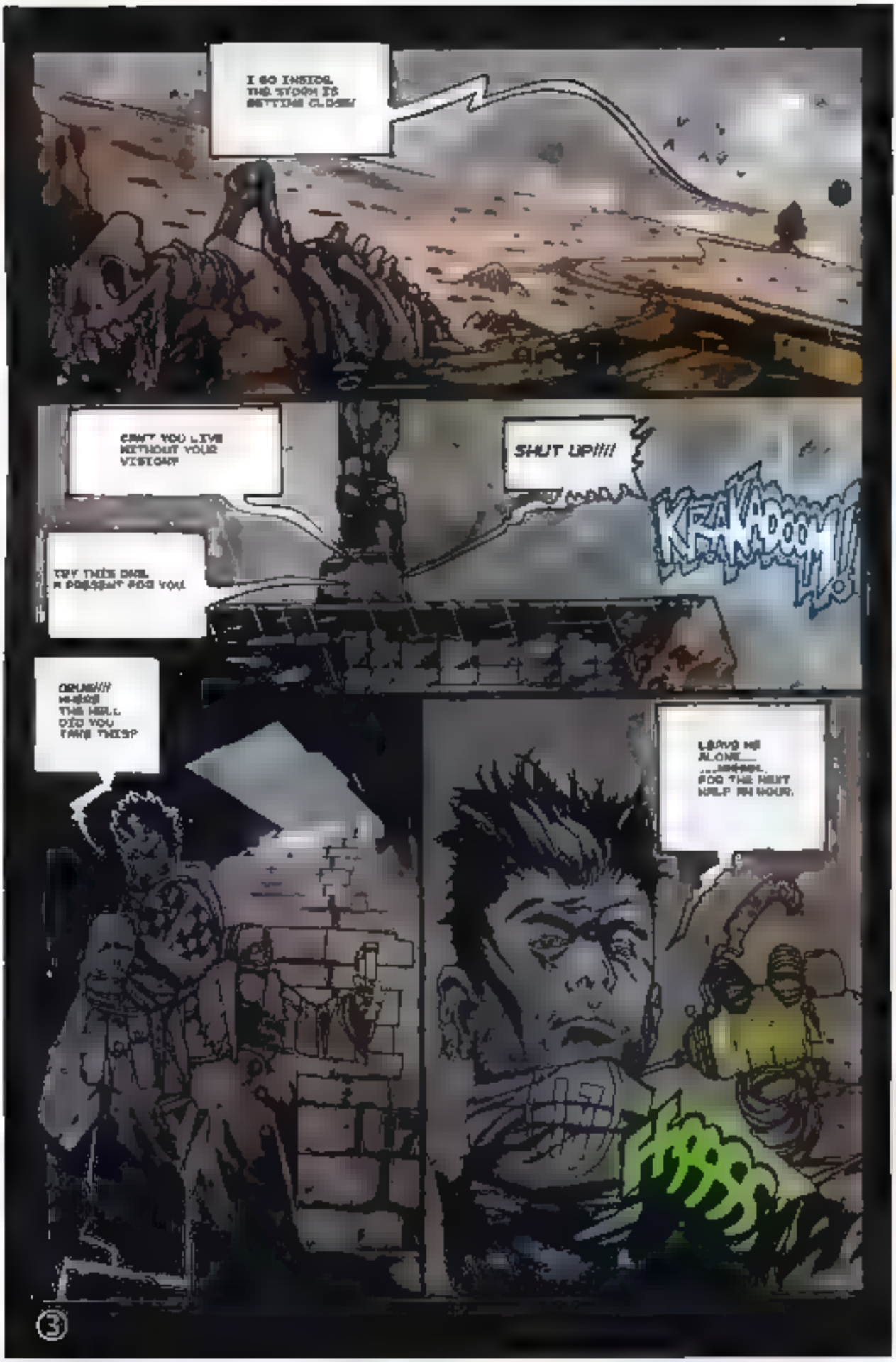
ART
STEFANO CARDOSELLI

TRANSLATIONS
MS COBRA

LETTERING
RITA GORGONI
AND
AZ NEW STUDIOS


I DON'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT YOU AND YOUR STORY, OLD MAN.
DRUGS HAVE RUN OUT!!!!!!!!
REALLY? HOW IT CAN BE?
THAT DAMNED CARDIES HAS NOT ARRIVED YET!!!!!!
SOMEONE WILL COME. DON'T WORRY.


I DON'T HAVE TO BE ######!!
HE HAS TO BE HERE TWO DAYS AGO!!
MAYBE HE HAS BEEN BLOCKED BY THE STORM, SVEN
THE RADIO DOESN'T WORK
ALL SHIT!!!!! I NEED THE DRUM!
STOP IT SVEN!
MIND YOUR OWN BLOODY BUSINESS!!! DON'T GIVE ME ORDERS, JUNK!!
I AM THE BOSS HERE!!!!!!
CLANK
2


I GO INSIDE. THE STORM IS GETTING CLOSE!
CAN'T YOU LIVE WITHOUT YOUR VISIOR?
SHUT UP!!!!
KRAKADOOM!!!
TRY THIS ONE. A PRESENT FOR YOU.
GRUNK!!! WHERE THE HELL DID YOU FIND THIS?
LEAVE ME ALONE.... ...MMMM.. FOR THE NEXT HALF AN HOUR.
FSSSS
3

SO, NOW I'M GOING TO TELL YOU MY STORY. THINK ABOUT A MED.
... THE DEAD, THE EXPLOSIONS.....
BLOCK BLOCK BLOCK
BOOM
4

KRRRRR
KUMP!
AGGHHH!!!!
...AND TRY TO THINK ABOUT A HAM, HE IS A DOCTOR...
THOOM
...AND FIGHTS FOR LIFE HIS OWN LIFE... ...AND HIS BROTHERS TOO...
5

...WHILE THE WORLD IS FALLING ALL AROUND HIM...
...HE IS ONLY ABLE TO SEE THAT DEVASTED FRIEND...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING DOWN?
...AND IN HIS MIND THERE CANNOT BE THOUGHTS, OR REMORSE, OR DESIRES ONLY THE FRENZY FOR HIS SENSE OF DUTY
COMPLETELY DETACHED.
...AND AT THE END...
...THE ONLY THING THAT REMAINS...

.....IS THE
SILENCE.
7

WELL BOY, YOU KNOW I TRY.
SOMETIMES IT IS SO ABSURD THAT YOU CAN ONLY BE LED ASTRAY.
JUST LIKE IF A HUGE DRAGON COULD LET YOU FLY ABOVE NEVERENDING GRIND-DRIBBO SCENES....

YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE THE TIME TO THINK.
...AND SUDDENLY THE DEMON DISAPPEARS AND WHEN YOU LOOK AROUND YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE THE PLACE WHERE YOU ARE AND DON'T KNOW HOW YOU ARE THERE
DO YOU KNOW WHAT LEGENDS TALK ABOUT?
AT THE END OF ANY WAR TWO MEN STAND ONE IN FRONT OF THE OTHER. LAST SURVIVORS ON THE BATTLEFIELD. THE SPIRIT OF THE WAR DOESN'T LEAVE THEIR HEARTS ANY MORE AND THEY ARE FREE TO CHOOSE IF STARTING THE LAST FIGHT, BEGINNING THE NEW CONFLICT OR STOP THE KILLING, DRAWING THE WAR FROM THE EARTH FOREVER.

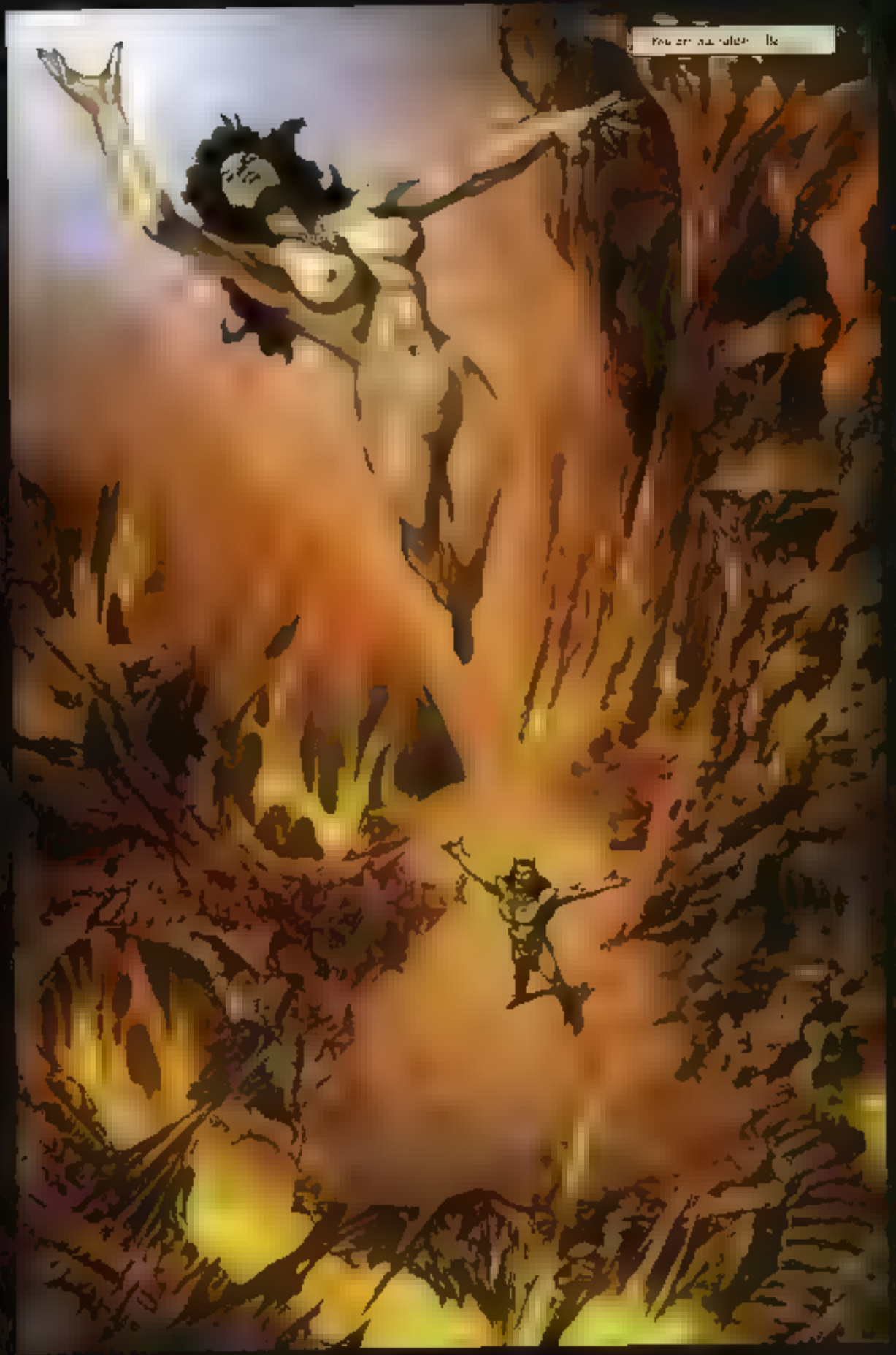
ALARM
BOOBOOBOOO

The Depths of Gnar
Story Ed
Pencils- Rudy
Storyboards/Painting- Steven R. Cobb

In stark, fear and indifference is slain by quickly an angel. The word
And she soon realizes that he

ever before had the devil realized such carnal delights. At least not with a human. There was more to this picture and he was determined to get on the bottom of it. Hers was an excellent place to start.
After a night-then-satisfying demon human experience, she thanks him for the enviable moment and asks a favor of him. In return he is the world above.
She had been hunted and killed by the people for practicing witchcraft and wants to get retribution for this harsh sentence of death and oppose torture on Earth. Well... Hell does have its perks.
Assuring the word devil-formal allegiance he agrees if she will fulfill his mission of enriching the Above World with her newfound demonic powers. The pact is made and sealed through more fornication.

...established that she will be given the Amulet of Xo to transport through the Depths of Gnar and out of the Caves of Cadaver. Her plight will soon fall upon the Land of Mordunal. Her quest would be ... the Great World of the Dr...
...that the Amulet of Xo requires a limitless supply of blood. Only by bathing it in blood can the wearer harness its vast powers. And that blood must be donated by her. She must drain the blood of the human ... every ... must ... immortal.



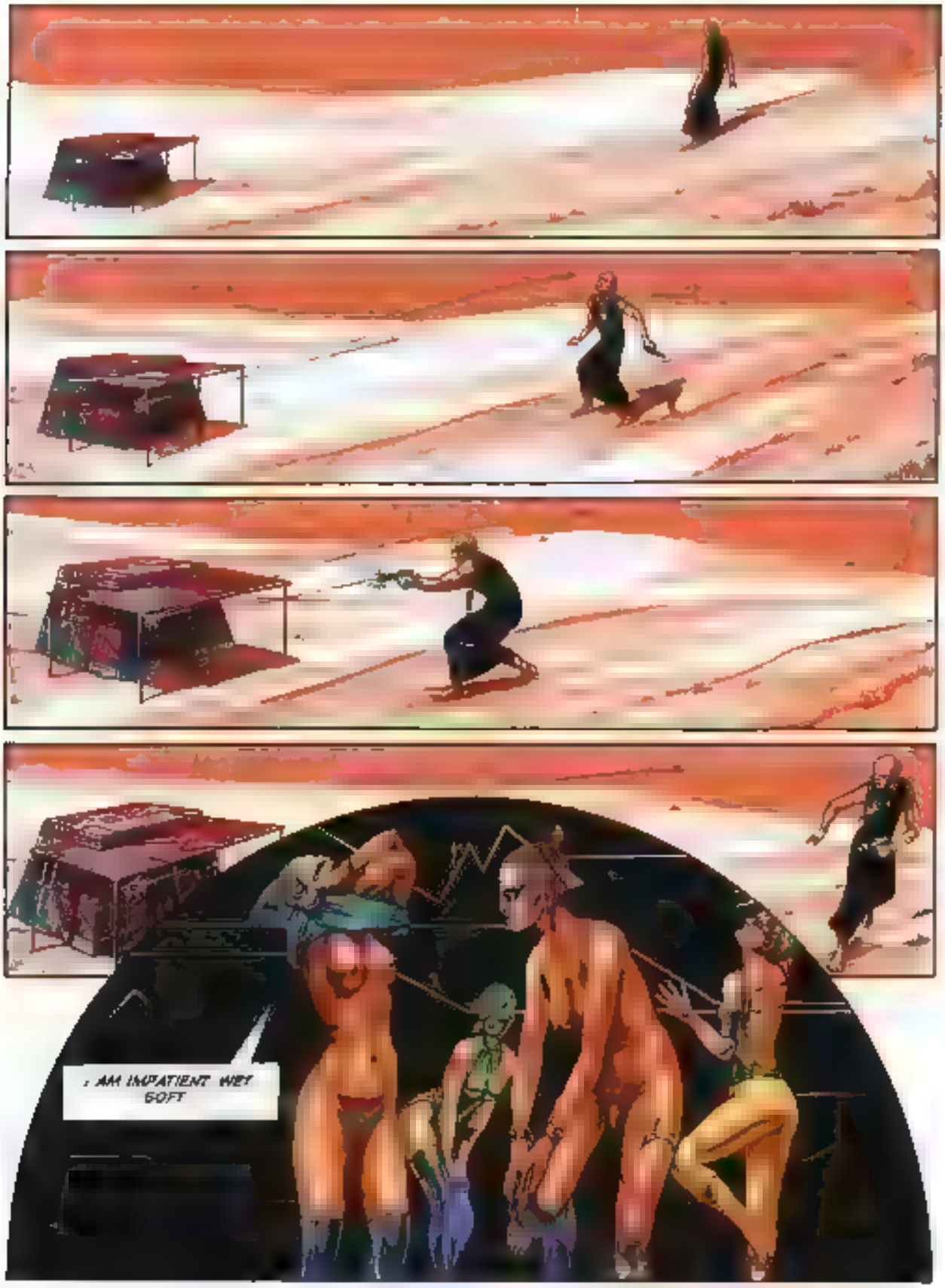
Sacralith
The Evil Vampiress
The power of the Amulet of Ra enables her to time travel to other worlds as well as throughout the planes of Adoriana
She visits the Underworld of Gnar often to fulfill her obligations of sexual servitude and to fulfill her blood and soul quest.
She eventually dethrones Queen Yuna of the Vampiress Society and rules over all of them
They are bound by duty to help her in her mission through time and space.
3
And so the story begins...

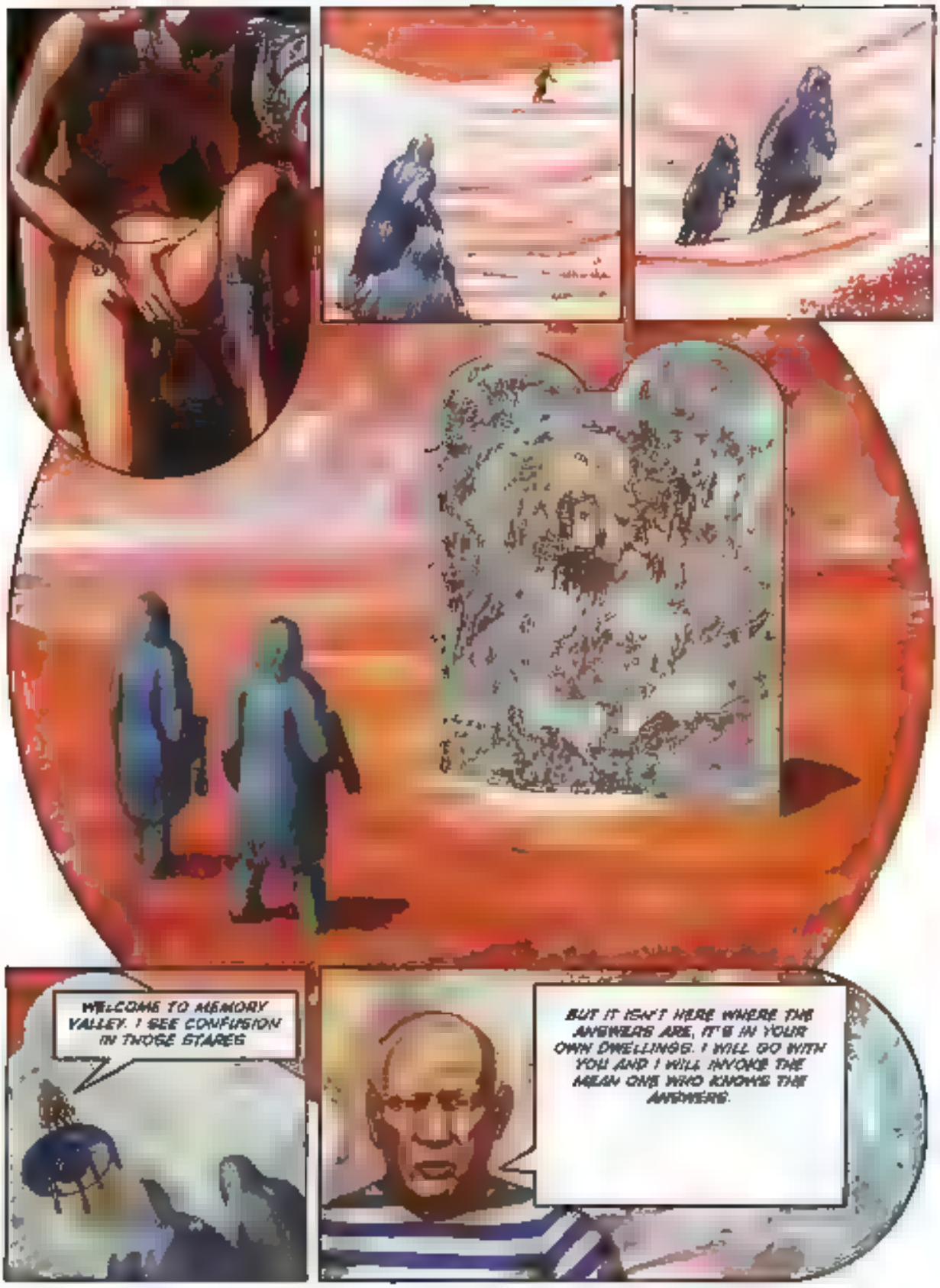
BRAIUM

BEAUTIFUL. NEW. UNKNOWN. YOU ARE SO BEAUTIFUL. HEAT IN MY BODY. FROM NOW ON, THE BLACK CITY WILL ALWAYS BE FUCKING WITH YOU. A TIGHT FIT. PEEPING TOMS. CARESSES, COLOURED LIGHTS, WHITE LIGHTS, DESIRES. DESIRE FEMALE?

BY LUIS ROYO

DRINK BURN LOOK

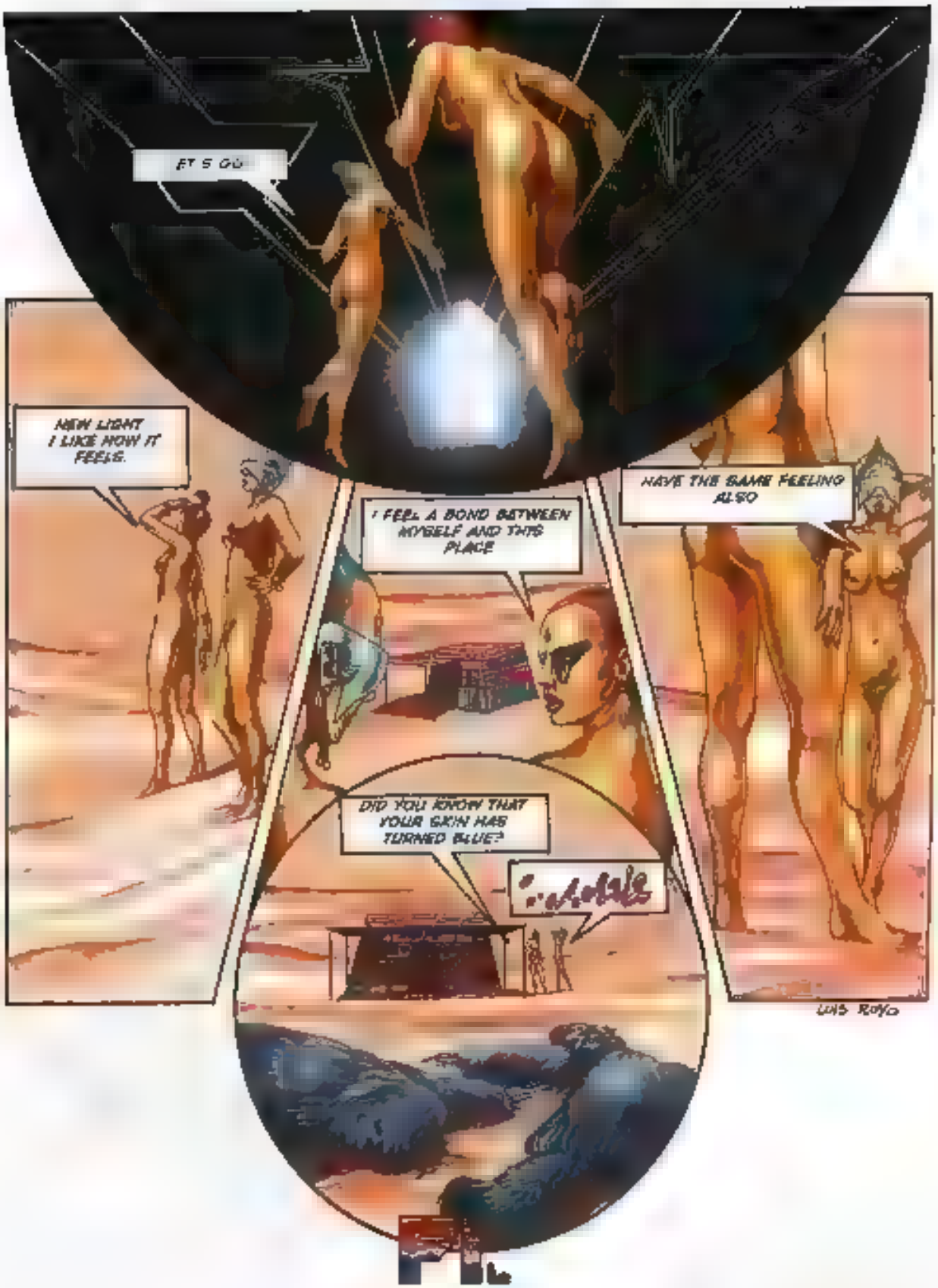

: AM IMPATIENT WET SOFT

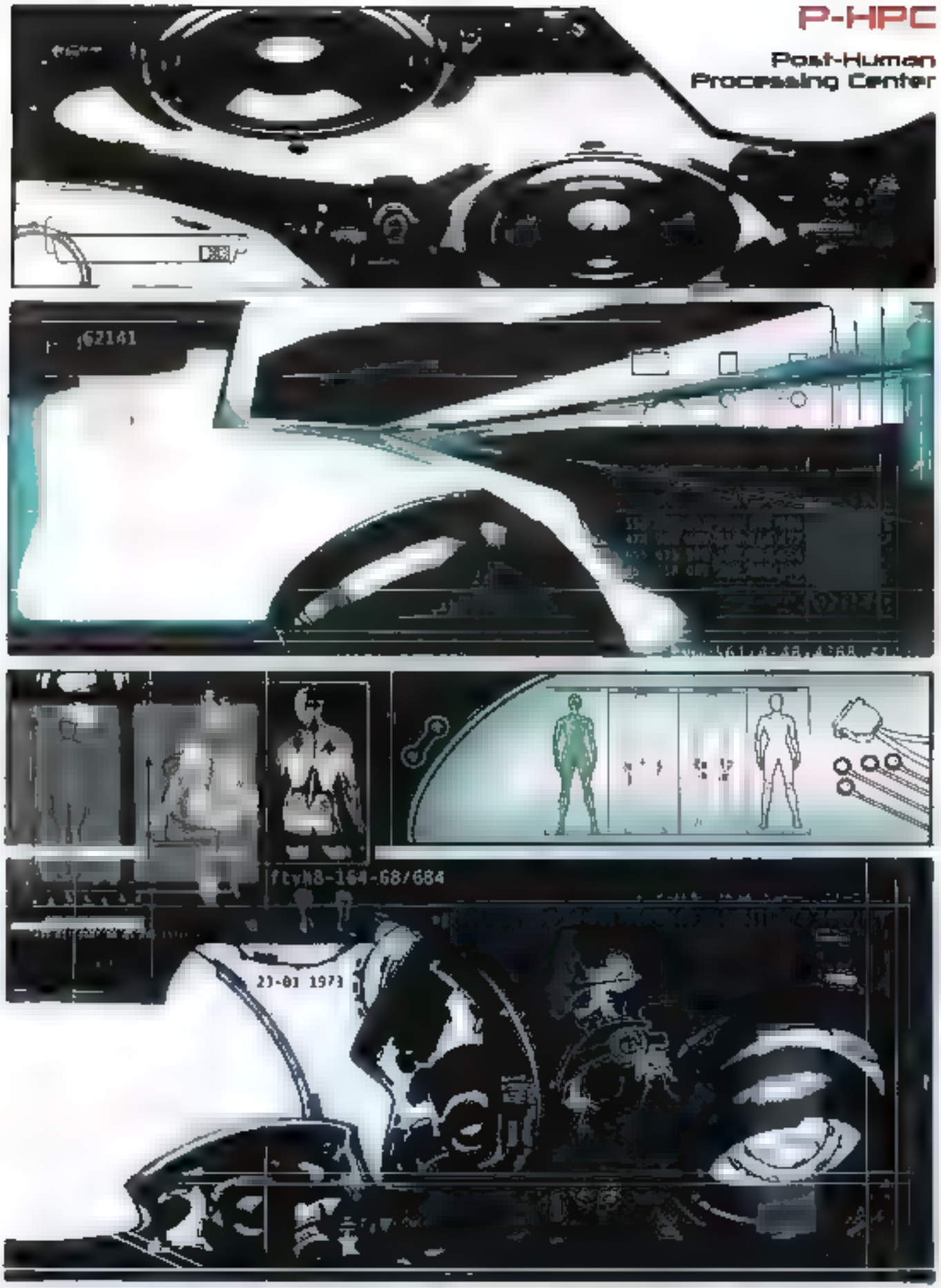

WELCOME TO MEMORY VALLEY. I SEE CONFUSION IN THOSE STARES
BUT IT ISN'T HERE WHERE THE ANSWERS ARE, IT'S IN YOUR OWN DWELLINGS. I WILL GO WITH YOU AND I WILL INVOKE THE MEAN ONE WHO KNOWS THE ANSWERS.

WHO ARE YOU? GLANCES, GLANCES, EYES THAT TELL OF DEATH. WHO ARE YOU? WHO SENT YOU?
WATCH OUT! ESCAPE! RUN!
RUN WITH ME

I KNOW THAT THE ROAD OF YOUR LIFE HAS BEEN HARD AND THAT YOUR UNION HAS BEEN YOUR OWN DECISION. THAT THE PAINTER HAS LED YOU HOME AND THAT YOU HAVE SEEN HIS REPETITIVE WORK WHICH SPEAKS OF THE BODY AND THAT IT DOESN'T CEASE TO BE WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR, BUT YOU MUST KNOW THAT SOMEONE, IN ANOTHER DIMENSION, IS MASTURBATING WITH YOUR IMAGE LIKE THEY DID IN SOME OTHER TIME WITH THE WORK OF ART YOU HAVE SEEN.
I GREET YOU IN YOUR HOUSE THAT WITH MY PRESENCE IS THE PLACE OF OUR MEETING. STOP THINKING ABOUT WHO YOU ARE CALLING AND LISTEN...
OKAY, ENOUGH BULLSHIT WHAT IS THAT BLUE PUPPET SAYING?

THERE'S THE LIGHT
I DON'T LIKE STORY BOOK MORALS FUCKING MYSTIC. WATCH WHAT I DO TO THOSE CUDDLY TOYS.
HIS WORDS ARE TRUE. YOU MIGHT NOT UNDERSTAND THEM. BUT THEY SPEAK THE TRUTH. STAY HERE. WATCH AND YOU WILL SEE THAT EVERYTHING HAS AN ANSWER.
STOP. THE ROAD IS SET.


LET'S GO
NEW LIGHT I LIKE HOW IT FEELS.
I FEEL A BOND BETWEEN MYSELF AND THIS PLACE
HAVE THE SAME FEELING ALSO
DID YOU KNOW THAT YOUR SKIN HAS TURNED BLUE?
LUIS ROYO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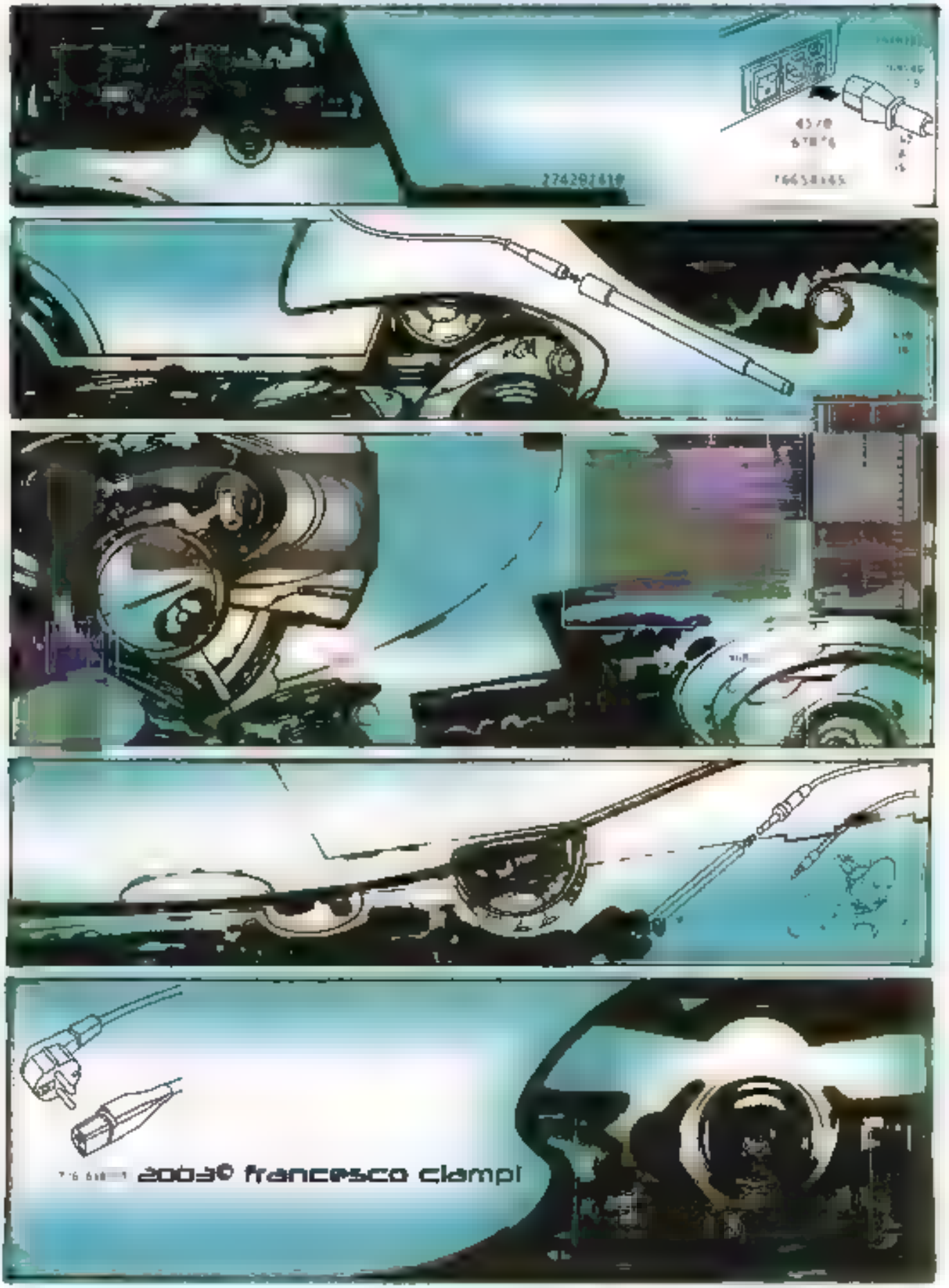
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" ANOTHER WHISKY, JACK "
MR. O'SAGNT, I DON'T KNOW YOU
WE HAVE A COUPLE OF DRINKS TOGETHER YOU FOLLOW ME OUT OF THE PUB, AND THEN YOU START TELLING ME ALL THESE
IT'S OUT OF THE GOODNESS OF MY HEART!
I SAW RIGHT AWAY THAT YOU WEREN'T FROM THESE PARTS, AND THIS IS THE BEST INTRODUCTION TO IRISH FOLKLORE!
THIS VERY EVENING, FOR EXAMPLE JACK
HMM...
I... I DON'T CARE FOR YOUR STORIES
..ONCE A YEAR, THAT OLD DRUNK COMES BACK TO THE MOORS... AND EACH TIME THE DEVIL TRIES TO TAKE HIS SOUL

BUT JACK IS SMART AND THE DEVIL CAN'T TRICK HIM...
SO WHAT HAPPENS?
JACK HAUNTS THE WOODS WITHOUT FEAR OF HELL OR HOPE OF PARADISE AND
EVERYONE WHO CROSSES HIS PATH MUST GIVE HIM A BOTTLE OF WHISKY TO CONSOLE HIM.
AND TO SAVE THEMSELVES FROM TORMENTS LIKE HIS.
OH?
HERE!
B... BUT WHY ME?!
I ALREADY MET HIM LAST YEAR..
GAHH!
LISTEN
THAT'S HIM

IF THE DEVIL WANTS TO MAKE ME DRINK FROM HIS BOTTLE AND THEN THROW MYSELF INTO THE FLAMES, HE'LL HAVE TO COME UP WITH A CRAFTIER PLOT
LET HIM TRY AGAIN NEXT YEAR!
I HAVE ALL OF ETERNITY TO GET THIRSTY!
JACK O'LANTERN
M-MR. O'SAANT?!
. MR. O'SAANT! WHERE ARE YOU?! MR. O'SAANT?! .

IT'S DONE, HARRY! I'VE PUT THE BODY IN A BAG. AS YOU ASKED ME.
YOU CAN COME IN
WHAT KIND OF FUNERAL CAN WE GIVE HER IF WE CAN'T GO ASHORE?
THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS SHOULDN'T LAST LONG, HARRY BUT FOR THE MOMENT, WE'LL JUST HAVE TO KEEP HER IN COLD STORAGE!
POOR SIMONI. SHE REALLY DIDN'T DESERVE TO END LIKE THIS!
DO YOU WANT ME TO HELP YOU CARRY HER, HARRY?
IT'S OK. I'LL MAKE YOU HAVE TO RESTART "THE DARLING." GO AHEAD, I'LL JOIN YOU SOON!
I UNDERSTAND. HARRY. NO NEED TO THANK ME
. . AND THANKS FOR THE HELP! NONE OF US FELT UP TO DOING WHAT YOU DID.

SEE THOSE HORRIBLE INSECTS? YOU LOOK AWAY FOR A MINUTE AND THEY START REPRODUCING LIKE MAD!
SO HOW DO YOU DO IT YOU LITTLE RASCAL? CELLULAR DIVISION!
WELL I GUESS SO! IT WAS TO BE EXPECTED!
I SAW THEM YOU KNOW, PROFESSOR. I SAW THOSE METAMORPHES THAT ARE FOLLOWING US
JUST TO THINK THAT NOT SO LONG AGO THEY WERE PEOPLE LIKE YOU AND ME ... IT REALLY UPSET ME.
SORRY ONE-NALYS, I WASN'T LISTENING. WHAT DID YOU SAY?
I SAID THAT THOSE CREATURES ON THE SHORE WERE MEN AND WOMEN LIKE YOU AND ME. NOT THAT LONG AGO!
YES, OF COURSE BUT WE KNEW THEY EXISTED. DIDN'T WE? JODIE AND DJAB'S FATHER HAD TOLD US WHEN HE RETURNED FROM HIS FIRST EXPEDITION!
I KNOW, PROFESSOR, BUT IT'S ONE THING WHEN SOMEONE TELLS YOU, AND ANOTHER WHEN YOU ACTUALLY SEE THEM WITH YOUR OWN EYES!

PABLO, ROBERTO, AND NOW SIMON! THREE DEATHS IN AS MANY DAYS! IT SEEMS LUCK IS NO LONGER ON OUR SIDE!
THERE'S SOMETHING BOTHERING ME ABOUT SIMON! SOMETHING YOU HINTED AT YESTERDAY EVENING!
I KNOW BUT I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT SINCE AND I'VE CHANGED MY MIND!
AND WHAT DO YOU THINK NOW?
HER NECK WAS BROKEN, WILLIAM! BADLY BROKEN!
BOP YOU DON'T NEED TO BE A METAMORPHE TO DO THAT! I COULD HAVE DONE IT! YOU COULD HAVE DONE IT! THERE ARE AT LEAST SIX OF US THAT WERE STRONG ENOUGH TO DO IT!
YOU AND ME. AMBROSE, GUNTER, DJAB, AND HARRY!
IN FACT UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF A FIT OF MADNESS EVEN THE PROFESSOR AND THE TWO WOMEN COULD HAVE DONE IT! SO, ANYONE APART FROM ISAAC, OF COURSE, COULD HAVE MURDERED SIMON!
NO ONE HERE IS CRAZY!
OH! ARE YOU REALLY SO SURE?

WHAT ?!
THE BARGE IS HEADING TOWARDS THE SHORE!!
COME HERE! HURRY!!

WHAT HAPPENED?!
WE'LL FIND OUT RIGHT AWAY!!
GUNTER??
GUNTER: GET YOUR HANDS OFF THE HELM
GOOD! NOW I'M BACK
WILLIAM! GO AND GET SOMETHING TO TIE HIM WITH
AND YOU JUST SAID NO ONE HERE WAS CRAZY!

HELLO, JODIE!
WHO ARE YOU?!
IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE WHO I AM. FOR THE MOMENT I'VE COME TO WARN YOU THAT THE MAN YOU CALL GUNTER IS VERY DANGEROUS.
HE'S UNDER THE SPELL OF THE CREATURES THAT ARE CHASING YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS!

COME IN JODIE
YOU SEEM UPSET LITTLE SISTER! WHAT'S THE MATTER?
I'VE HAD A VERY STRANGE DREAM, OJAR.
OH YEAH? WHAT WAS IT?
GUNTER HAS JUST KILLED AMBROSE! CARLO IS HOLDING HIM AT BAY IN THE PILOT'S CABIN! WE HAVE TO GO AND HELP HIM!
WHAT?!
GET GOING, OBAIT AWAY! I'LL GET A ROPE TO TIE HIM UP!
JODIE GO GET HARRY WE'LL NEED HIM TOO!

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU KILLED BOTH OF THEM!!
MY OWN
WELL
WHAT HAVE YOU GOT TO SAY?
SHIT QUINTER: STAY WHERE YOU ARE
DON'T DO THAT!!
SHIT

CARLO'?
I'M RIGHT HERE.
ARE YOU OK?
YEAH.
WHERE'S GUNTER?!
I HESI-TATED.
AND HE AGAIN AGED TO DODGE MY BULLET! THEN THE BASTARD ESCAPED THROUGH THE HATCH!
I'LL WARN THE OTH-ERS. THEY'RE ALL BELOW
IT'S DANGEROUS. JOCHI INSTEAD YOU SHOULD WARN GWENDOLYN AND MARIPOSA, AND STAY WITH THEM TILL WE FIND GUNTER.
YOU'RE RIGHT HARRY
WE'LL WAIT FOR YOU IN THE BEEHOUSE

HELP ME
I HURT
GUNTER!
HELP ME BEG
OF YOU!

LOOK AT ME.. SEE WHAT I'VE BECOME.
PLEASE DON'T LET THAT HAP-PEN..
..KILL ME!!
WHERE IS JOOIS?
SHE'S WAITING FOR US IN THE GREENHOUSE. WITH OWENALYS AND MARIPOSA. WHY?!
WE MUST GET THERE RIGHT AWAY! GUNTER GOT AWAY FROM CARLO AND HE'S SOMEWHERE IN THE WAREHOUSE!!
LISTEN TO ME GUNTER. I'M YOUR FRIEND. THERE MUST BE SOME WAY WE CAN HELP YOU!
NO... DON'T COME NEAR ME.. I'M..

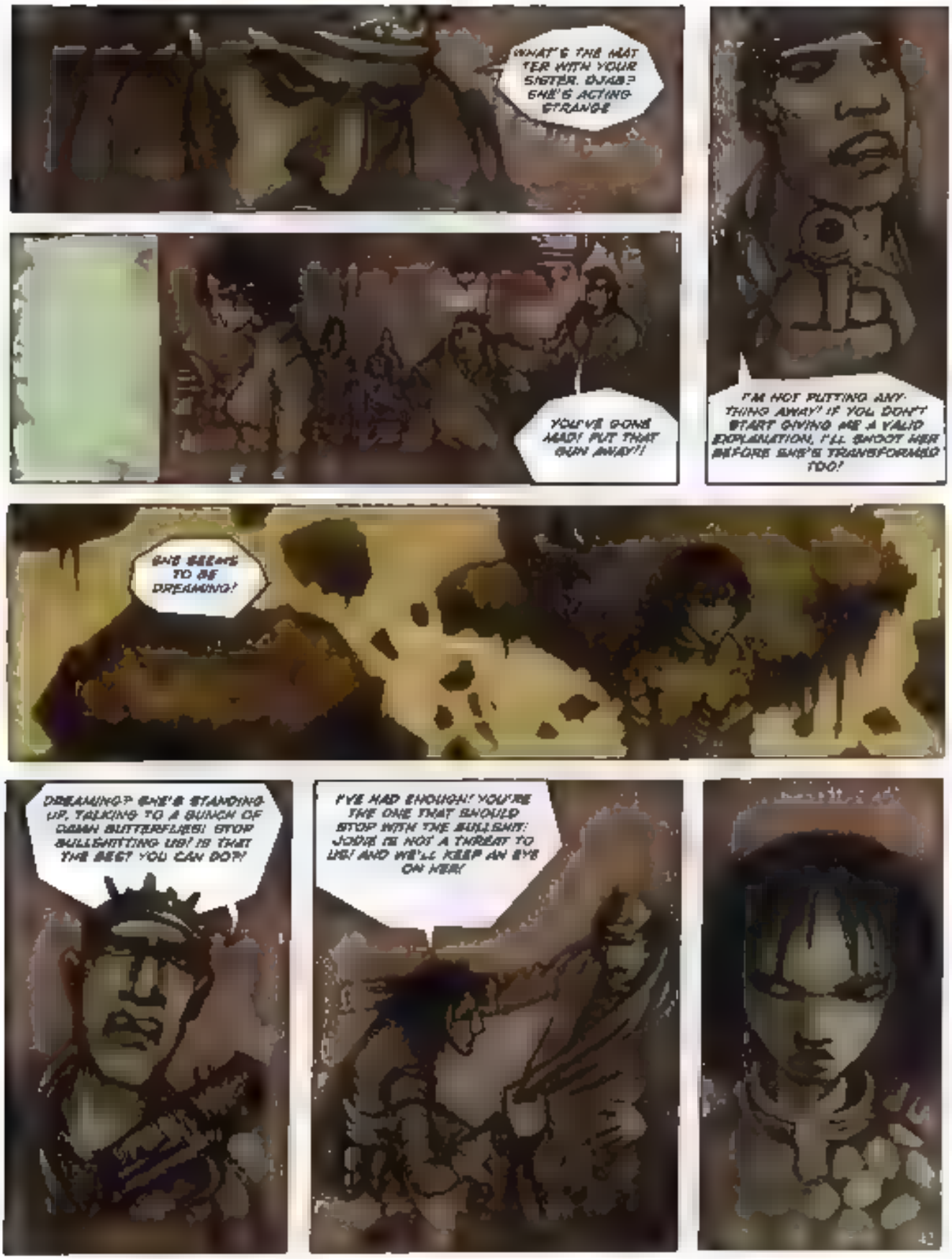
.. DANGEROUS! I'M LOSING CONTROL..
CAN'T REMEMBER. WHAT ?..
?..
THERE'S JODIE.
GRRRHHH...
COME

LET HER GO!!!
I SAID LET HER GO!!
STOP!!
DJAS! NOOOO!!
I'M GONNA KILL HIM!
DAMN! HOW TERRIBLE

SHIP'S LOG. FOURTH DAY. GUNTER MURDERED AMBROSE CUNNINGHAM AND HE TRIED TO KILL JODIE AS WELL. LUCKILY, DJAB WAS ABLE TO STOP HIM. GUNTER WAS LOCKED UP IN THE HOLD...
HE'S A METAMORPHE... OR RATHER, HE'S IN THE PROCESS OF BECOMING ONE. AFTER MUCH SUFFERING, MY COMPANIONS MUST NOW ENDURE THE FEARFUL POSSIBILITY THAT THEY MAY ALL BE CONTAMINATED...
THEIR MORALE HAS HIT ROCK BOTTOM. IT'S OBVIOUS THAT THEIR CAPACITY TO ADAPT TO THIS CONSTANTLY CHANGING WORLD IS RAPIDLY DIMINISHING
NOW LONG WILL IT BE BEFORE THEY GIVE UP EVEN TRYING?
I'VE NOW STEPPED INTO THE ROLE OF THE PILOT SINCE I HAD BEEN EQUIPPED WITH THE NECESSARY PROGRAM. I JUST HAD TO ACTIVATE IT. THE METAMORPHES ON THE SHORE ARE STILL FOLLOWING US

MY GOD... WE'RE DOOMED! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO GUNTER WILL HAPPEN TO US TOO! MAYBE NOW... OR PERHAPS TOMORROW
JUST ONE MORE HAZARD WE HAVE TO PUT UP WITH, OWENALYN! IT'S NO BIG DEAL
OH YEAH?! WELL, PERSONALLY I FIND IT HARD TO QUALIFY THE POSSIBILITY OF BEING TRANSFORMED INTO AN ABJECT CREATURE AS "NO BIG DEAL"!
I HAD ACCEPTED THE FACT THAT AT ANY MOMENT I COULD BE INJURED OR KILLED. TOLD MYSELF THAT IT WAS THE PRICE I HAD TO PAY FOR HAVING BEEN MIRACULOUSLY SAVED. BUT THIS
WE KNOW NEXT TO NOTHING ABOUT THE CATACLYSM THAT DEVASTATED OUR WORLD! GUNTER'S PHYSICAL AND MENTAL STATE MUST HAVE BEEN FRAGILE YESTERDAY. WE CROSSED A LARGE CLOUD-COVERED AREA. I'M SURE THAT EXPLAINS WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM!
MAYBE... BUT THAT STILL DOESN'T HELP US DECIDE WHAT WE SHOULD DO WITH HIM! WE CAN'T LEAVE HIM HERE! WE MUST REACH SOME DECISION!

WHO ARE YOU?
CAN'T GIVE YOU AN EXACT DEFINITION OF WHO I AM.
MY TRANSFORMATION IS TOO RECENT, TOO RADICAL. MAYBE I'LL BE ABLE TO TELL YOU SOMETIME IN THE FUTURE. ON THE OTHER HAND CAN TELL YOU WHO I WAS.
BUT THAT'S OF NO INTEREST. I HAVE COME TO GIVE YOU SOME ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT GUNTER. THE "HUNTERS" WANT HIM.
HE IS LIKE THEM NOW. THERE IS NOTHING YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS CAN DO FOR HIM.
SO, HAND HIM OVER TO THEM, AND PERHAPS THEY WILL LEAVE YOU ALONE. I SAY "PERHAPS" BECAUSE THEY WILL PROBABLY NOT BE SATISFIED JUST WITH GUNTER. AND EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT DIRECTLY IMPLICATED FEAR FOR YOU, JODIE!


WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOUR SISTER, DJAB? SHE'S ACTING STRANGE
I'M NOT PUTTING ANYTHING AWAY! IF YOU DON'T START GIVING ME A VALID EXPLANATION, I'LL SHOOT HER BEFORE SHE'S TRANSFORMED TOO!
YOU'VE GONE MAD! PUT THAT GUN AWAY!!
SHE SEEMS TO BE DREAMING!
DREAMING? SHE'S STANDING UP, TALKING TO A BUNCH OF DAMN BUTTERFLIES! STOP BULLSHITTING US! IS THAT THE BEST YOU CAN DO?!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH! YOU'RE THE ONE THAT SHOULD STOP WITH THE BULLSHIT! JOSHE IS NOT A THREAT TO US! AND WE'LL KEEP AN EYE ON HER!

HE SAYS WE SHOULD HAND GUNTER OVER TO THE METAMORPHES! HE SAYS GUNTER IS ONE OF THEM!
"HE"? WHO?
HE'S A METAMORPHE TOO, BUT HE'S VERY DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHERS. HE EXPLAINED TO ME THAT GIVING UP GUNTER MAY INDUCE OUR PURSUERS TO LEAVE US ALONE!
OH YEAH! AND I BET "HE" WANTS US TO GET CLOSE TO THE BANK TO PUT GUNTER ASHORE! WHAT A GREAT IDEA! WHY DIDN'T WE THINK OF IT?!
EVEN IF WE SUPPOSE FOR A MOMENT THAT JOOVE IS TELLING THE TRUTH, THIS CHARMING PROPOSITION HAS EVERY SEMBLANCE OF A DIRTY TRICK!
WE COULD TAKE GUNTER TO THE RIVERBANK WITH THE MOTORIZED DINGHY!
NOW LET'S SUPPOSE THAT WE ARE NOT ABOUT TO BE TRANSFORMED INTO MONSTERS. THAT DINGHY WILL BE VERY USEFUL TO US UNTIL WE GET TO PUERTA DE LA FELICIDAD! THERE'S NO REASON WHY WE SHOULD RISK LOSING IT JUST SO GUNTER, WHO IS NOW GUNTER IN NAME ONLY, CAN JOIN HIS BUDDIES!
PERSONALLY, I SEE ONLY ONE WAY OUT AND THAT IS TO KILL THE BASTARD AS SOON AS WE CAN!"

THE DISCUSSION CARRIED ON WELL INTO THE NIGHT. DESPITE WILLIAM'S OPPOSITION, THE OTHER CREW MEMBERS DECIDED TO USE THE DINGHY TO TAKE GUNTER TO THE LESS DANGEROUS BANK OF THE RIVER.
SORRY, GUNTER, BUT I CAN'T LET ANY ONE OF US GET CLOSE TO SHORE. THERE ARE TOO MANY RISKS INVOLVED! I WANT TO SEE PUERTA DE LA FELICIDAD, YOU UNDERSTAND?
IT WAS ONCE A MAGNIFICENT CITY, BEFORE THE COMING OF "THE CLOUD." WHO KNOWS, IT MAY STILL BE MAGNIFICENT... BESIDES, IT IS BOUND TO BE INHABITED BY OTHER SURVIVORS!
COME ALONG, GUNTER! LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH!!
NOOOOO!
PAW!!

I HEARD SEVERAL SHOTS THAT SEEMED TO COME FROM THE HOLD! IT'S PAST FOUR O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING. WILLIAM WAS ON THE WATCH!
DO YOU THINK HE MAY HAVE ATTACKED GUNTER?!
COME WITH ME!
DID YOU HEAR THE SHOTS, TOO?!
THIS IS IT!!
?!

SHIP'S LOG. DAY FIVE. LAST NIGHT, WILLIAM WENT DOWN INTO THE HOLD TO SHOOT GUNTER...

FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE:
THE GRAPHIC NOVEL
FELICIDAD—CLOUD!
BY MOSDI & FROISSARD
SPATIUM
BY ROYO
MUDWOGS #3
BY ARTHUR SUYDAM
PLUS MUCH MORE!
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